

Police arrest British driver 'Supergun' lorries held in Greece

By Michael Horsnell and Richard Ford

THE mystery of the "guns for Iraq" affair deepened yesterday when two lorries carrying unspecified ancillary equipment destined for Baghdad were impounded in Greece — nearly three weeks after they left their manufacturers in Britain.

Meanwhile, six eight-metre pipes bound for Iraq were seized by Customs officers at the Essex port of Harwich. But they were allowed to proceed to Baghdad after an inspection showed they were concrete-lined water pipes of no military significance.

A British driver of one of the impounded lorries was arrested and questioned by Greek police and Customs officials at Patras after appar-

ently arriving by ferry from the Italian port of Brindisi. The nature of his consignment remained unclear but they may not have been pipes.

The Foreign Office was awaiting news of his detention from staff at the British Embassy in Athens, who were hoping to interview the man. Sheffield Forgemasters, one of two British manufacturers which supplied the series of steel tubes seized by British Customs officers recently, said it assumed the equipment aboard the lorry was part of the "supergun" contract.

The company pointed out that it had informed British Customs at a meeting on April 11 that a transport company had taken the equipment from its factory in Rotherham 12 days earlier, on March 30.

But it remained unclear where the load of equipment — possibly destined for the northern Iraq city of Mosul — had been since the end of last month and why it had taken so long to reach Greece.

The other company involved in the affair, Walter Somers Ltd, added to the mystery by claiming that the lorries may have been theirs. Somers previously said the last of 12 steel tubes ordered by Iraq at a cost of more than £1 million left its factory "by shipment" on March 15.

A company spokesman added: "Until a few hours ago, we thought it had all gone by sea. We now learn that two lorries detained in Greece were each carrying one and possibly two of our pipes. It would be fair to assume that at least six of the others forged by Walter Somers Ltd have got through to Iraq."

Customs investigators were believed to have been trying to intercept the road freight for more than a week as it made its way to Iraq.

The Greek authorities are thought to have acted at the request of British Customs, who seized eight steel cylinders, allegedly intended to form part of a 40-metre gun barrel, in Middlesbrough last week. The driver, whose passport was confiscated, is understood to come from Stourbridge in the West Midlands.

In a statement Mr Tony Peck, spokesman for Sheffield Forgemasters, said: "We assume that the equipment impounded in Patras is ancillary equipment for the same Iraqi contract that has already been widely reported."

"Forgemasters informed Customs and Excise at their meeting on April 11 that a transport company had taken

the equipment from their factory on March 30."

The company said it was unable to define the nature of the equipment seized.

A Customs spokesman in London said senior officers were "in touch" with their colleagues in Greece.

He added: "The Foreign Office has told us that the British Embassy in Greece is trying to see the driver. The equipment includes some of the things Sheffield Forgemasters said they had despatched beforehand."

The action by the Greek authorities is believed to follow doubts about the way in which the documentation describes the consignment.

The seizure comes amid a parliamentary row over allegations that the Department of Trade and Industry was warned two years ago that the Iraqis might be using precision-forged tubes for military purposes.

Government officials yesterday studied the records of conversations the Conservative MP, Sir Hal Miller, had with two ministries — and a "third agency", believed to be the security services — in which he claims to have alerted them to doubts about one of the contracts for steel tubes.

Details of calls Sir Hal made two years ago to the DTI and the Ministry of Defence have all been traced and the transcripts are being investigated. In the Commons, Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, made three attempts to get the Iraqi gun affair raised on the floor of the House. He said that a statement should be made on how the transcripts of conversations between Sir Hal, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, and government departments, came to light.

On each occasion, he was told from the Chair that no request had been made by any minister to make a statement.

Last November, Mrs Thatcher said in a written answer that the Government used all information and legal powers available to control illegal or improper procurement activities in Britain.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat Leader, said he hoped the Prime Minister would condemn the "outrageous and damaging" remarks made about ethnic minority British by the former chairman of the Conservative party.

Calling for the Home Secretary to consider bringing a prosecution against Mr Tebbit, Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Birmingham Perry Bar, said: "He is a clever politician using soft language about cricket. But what he is actually doing is inciting racial hatred."

Mr Tebbit justified his use of the cricket test example by saying it was a lighter way of talking about some issues over which passions sometimes became quite inflamed.

Speaking on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme, he said he watched closely to see how well people who came to a foreign country to live, work and bring up their family integrated.

"If all the time somebody is looking back over their shoulder to the country from which their family came instead of to the country where they live and are making their home, you scratch your head if you are an integrationist and ask: 'Are they really integrated or are they just living here?'"

Mr Tebbit added that there could be no doubt where the hearts of West Indian born bowlers who played for England in the last test belonged as they had played for England.

Continued on page 16, col 3



Anglo-Irish accord: Mrs Thatcher with Mr Haughey outside 10 Downing Street before their talks yesterday

Tebbit defends comment on Asians

By Richard Ford and Jonathan Brande

OPPOSITION MPs yesterday bitterly criticized Mr Norman Tebbit as he defended his comment that a proportion of the Asian community failed to pass his test and support England at cricket matches.

Mr Tebbit was unrepentant over his remark that they did not pass what he called "the cricket test" — which side do they cheer for?

As a Labour MP called on the Home Secretary to consider prosecuting Mr Tebbit for inciting racial hatred, representatives of the Asian community accused him of making insulting and disgraceful remarks.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat Leader, said he hoped the Prime Minister would condemn the "outrageous and damaging" remarks made about ethnic minority British by the former chairman of the Conservative party.

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Continued on page 16, col 3

Thatcher to condemn 'esoteric' EC union

By Richard Ford and Jamie Dettmer

BRITAIN will strongly oppose a "esoteric" plan for European political union when the issue is discussed at next week's summit of European heads of government in Dublin.

With France and West Germany declaring their intention to press for political and economic union by January 1, 1993, the matter is expected to be discussed informally over lunch at the European Community summit called to discuss German reunification.

During talks yesterday with Mr Charles Haughey, the current President of the EC, the Prime Minister made clear Britain's position that there were many more matters to talk about in Dublin before political union was addressed.

Before the talks at 10 Downing Street began, Mr Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, said it had become clear during his tour of European capitals that there was strong pressure for political union to be considered at the summit.

However, after the talks

meeting with Mrs Thatcher, Anglo-Irish affairs "were barely touched upon". Mr Haughey said that Mrs Thatcher was prepared to discuss the Kohl-Mitterrand initiative in Dublin.

Almost all of the talks yesterday were concerned with the question of German reunification but Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey had a brief discussion about the vexed problem of extradition between the Republic and Northern Ireland and Britain.

The meeting between the two Prime Ministers, accompanied only by an adviser each, was described by government sources as very relaxed, friendly and useful. During the talks Mr Haughey outlined to Mrs Thatcher the likely agenda for the summit on April 28 which will concentrate German unification, the links between the EC and Eastern Europe, the ECCE talks, prospects for the creation of a European Bank and possibly the drugs problem.

Mr Haughey also suggested that it would take several meetings between the Common Market Foreign Ministers to flesh out fully any timetable towards political union. He said that during his

meeting with Mrs Thatcher, Anglo-Irish affairs "were barely touched upon". Mr Haughey said that Mrs Thatcher was prepared to discuss the Kohl-Mitterrand initiative in Dublin.

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Pretoria hint of power alliance

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

SOUTH Africa's National Party, which has been in government for 42 years, is considering forming an alliance with non-white parties, it emerged yesterday.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Constitutional Development, who held talks yesterday with Mrs Thatcher, said in an interview with The Times that the party was "very seriously considering" alliances with parties which shared its basic values. He could disagree on some issues if they had the same opinions on the main points.

He said it was "quite conceivable" that the alliances would cross racial boundaries. The party was studying the experience of a trans-racial alliance in Namibia.

It is almost certain to lose its majority as a result of a new

constitution to be agreed in talks with the ANC and other black leaders. Dr Viljoen said it was his goal that an agreement should be reached in two years. He suggested that the homelands policy could disappear with the creation of a federalism involving a high degree of local autonomy.

President de Klerk said in a speech on Thursday that Pretoria would repeal or amend three of the four main pillars of apartheid, leaving only the Population Registration Act.

However, Dr Viljoen made it clear that this too would be repealed once a new constitution had been agreed: "There is no way it could survive a new constitution... It will have to go, it must go."

Full interview, page 7
Sanctions call, page 10

Vilnius down to 12-day supply of fuel

From Anatol Lieven
Vilnius

LITHUANIA has fuel for only 12 more days, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday, calling for a compromise with Moscow. "It will be impossible for us to live for an extended period under conditions of blockade," he said, only hours before the Soviet Union gave a brief show of force with the seizure by troops of a printing house.

President Gorbachev could be faced with trouble on another Baltic front at the weekend. Latvian deputies are expected to demand a declaration of independence at a meeting in Riga, the capital, today.

It would mark the rejection of Mr Gorbachev's offer to Latvia of "special status" for the republic and would point to a declaration of full sovereignty when the new summer soviet meets on May 3.

A Latvian declaration would also risk causing tension between the indigenous population and Russian speakers, who make up almost 48 per cent of the total. A large minority of these support independence, but it is understood that even leading Russian members of the Latvian Popular Front fear that an immediate declaration of sovereignty will panic Russians.

Mr Janis Jurkans, the director of external relations for the Popular Front, said: "We have to declare independence now, so that there can be no retreat."

However, he said, there would also be significant differences between the Latvian approach and that of Lithuania. "The Lithuanians adopted all kinds of laws which they couldn't fulfil. We will not do that."

Meanwhile, in Vilnius yesterday afternoon, Soviet soldiers in battle dress armed with batons smashed their way into the printing house of the Communist Party central committee.

Sajudis volunteers and printing workers, many bruised and with bleeding noses, and one suffering from concussion, were forcibly ejected. Women workers said they had been abused and threatened.

Printing workers barricaded themselves into the press itself. The soldiers, after an initial failed attempt, did not try to break through.

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Letters, page 11
Lithuanian anniversary, page 16

REVIEW

Lies, legends and lifeboats

For 200 years a legend of injustice has clung to the man who said he invented the lifeboat. Brian James investigates the claims of two maritime men. Page 29

Our summer wine offer



With summer in mind, Jane MacQuitty has selected a special case of wine for readers of The Times. Bottles from France, Australia and New Zealand will be delivered to your door for £39.50. Page 35

Ten stars for Raymond Blanc

For the first time Jonathan Meades has awarded top marks after eating out. He went to Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons for a meal of superlative originality. Page 34

TRAVEL

Both sides of Berlin

West Berlin dwells boastfully at the edges of excess; the Prussian scent in the East still assails the senses. Anne McElvoy reports from a less divided city. Page 53

SPORT

The tenth Marathon

The London Marathon is 10 years old tomorrow, when about 26,000 runners will take part. Full details and spectator guide: Pages 45, 50, 51
Simon Barnes' Sporting Diary: Page 45

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Air report criticizes British Midland

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE draft report into the Boeing 737 crash on the M1 near Kegworth last year is critical of British Midland's engine and training procedures and contains 27 separate safety recommendations.

Although the report of the Department and Transport's Air Accident Investigation branch does not apportion blame, it is likely to have a profound effect on the layout of flight decks and the way pilots are trained to use the latest electronic instruments.

The two pilots and other "interested parties" have 28 days in which to comment on the findings.

Draft report, page 3

Continued on page 16, col 3

Rocard cries foul as the ref lends a hand

From Philip Jacobson
Paris



M Rocard: An outraged letter to his friend

LIKE half of France, M Michel Rocard, the Prime Minister, was glued to the television last Wednesday night, when Marcelles took on Lisbon's Benfica in the European Cup. And like other every viewer here, M Rocard was outraged when the Portuguese went through to the final with a handball almost as blatant as the infamous "goal" with which the hand of Diego Maradona knocked England out of the World Cup in 1986.

But M Rocard has the weight of high office and he deployed it in a remarkable letter to M Bernard Tapie, the Marcelles president. Written on official notepaper from the Prime Minister's Office, it hailed the team's sterling performances, bewailed the "incomprehensible and unpardonable" manner in which it had finally been beaten and offered such

assistance as the Socialist Government of France could muster to come up with a better way of refereeing key matches.

The parallel that springs to mind would be Mrs Thatcher issuing a statement from Downing Street about the number of bouncers aimed at English batsmen by the West Indian fast bowlers in the recent Test series. For what M Rocard's calls his "sacriligious" suggestion that touchline referees should follow big games on TV sets and intervene "to rectify any clear error", read a Thatcher call for extra umpires to crack down on headhunting bowlers.

M Rocard evidently shared French fans' hopes that Marcelles might become the country's first club to lift a European trophy after many a long year of trying. As a Parisian by adoption, he would be aware the all-conquering Marcelles team is cordially detested by

the fans of rival clubs on the domestic front; but then, the prospect of glory on foreign fields has a history of uniting the French, in sport as in war.

It helps, of course, that M Tapie — self-made millionaire, self-promoter of genius — is a sort of Socialist MP. Also that Marcelles is a Socialist stronghold: if M Rocard eventually intends to run for President, someone like M Tapie is definitely worth cultivating.

As Le Quotidien de Paris wistfully observed yesterday, referees can show the yellow card to players who question their decisions "but the laws make no provision for dealing with written dissent from a Prime Minister". Try as one might, it is hard to picture Mrs Thatcher staking a similar claim for change, even if Maradona's golden hand strikes at England again during the forthcoming World Cup in Italy.

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Police to seek £2m Strangeways cost from Waddington

By Quentin Cowdry and Ronald Faux

The Government is likely to be asked to foot a bill of up to £2 million for policing the riot at Strangeways jail, Manchester, it emerged yesterday, as disagreement over the tactics used against the protesters mounted.

The Greater Manchester Police Authority has decided that the city ratepayers cannot be expected to foot the policing costs of the worst prison disturbance this century.

It estimates that the bill for police overtime now stands at about £1 million, with other costs, including the use of the force's helicopter, adding about the same amount.

At yesterday's meeting of the police authority Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, described the 21-day siege as exceptional and extraordinary. "It is the most savage incident of its kind ever experienced within the British prison service."

A delegation from the police authority will meet Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, to ask for a full refund.

The authority's misgivings about the huge costs of the

operation have heightened the controversy over the tactics adopted by the prison governor, Mr Brendan O'Friel, and the prison department towards the siege, which yesterday entered its 20th day.

Force was used in the early stages of the riot but management has been placing its hopes mainly on a combination of negotiations and steadily deteriorating conditions within the jail.

It has been clear for the last two days, however, that talks have been deadlocked.

Mr Ivor Serle, branch chairman of the Prison Officers' Association at Strangeways, yesterday fuelled the dispute over the handling of the riot further by claiming that his governor had wanted to storm the prison soon after the riot erupted but had been overruled by his superiors.

He said: "We believe we could have taken the prison back on Monday, April 2 — the day after the riot broke out."

"The governor was just about to say 'Go' when he was told not to go by someone higher than him." Between

400 and 500 prison officers in trained groups would have stormed the prison on that Monday, Mr Serle claimed.

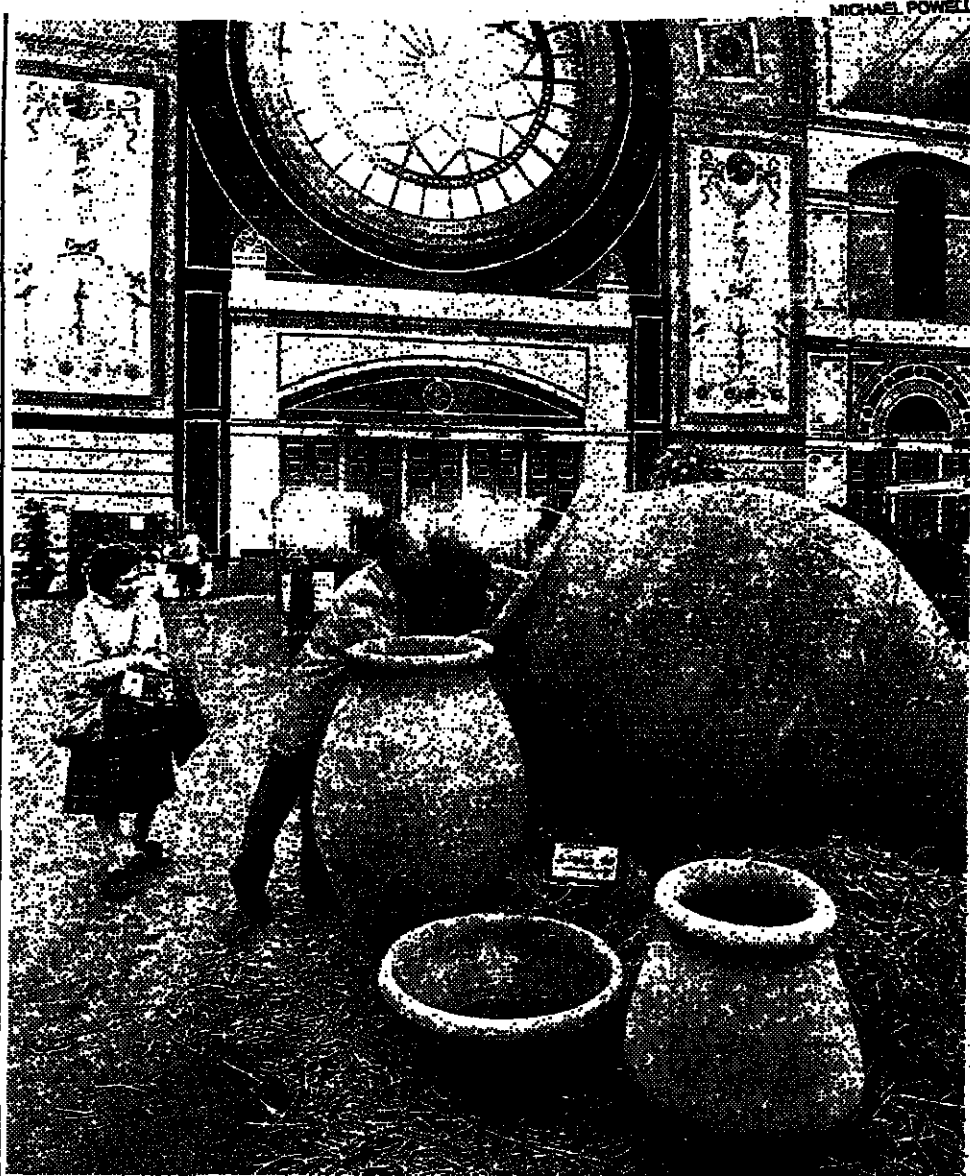
His version of events was disputed vigorously by the Home Office. It confirmed that an assault plan had been drawn up by the governor in consultation with the department, but said that there had been no question of Mr O'Friel being overruled.

A spokesman said: "It was agreed not to go ahead with the retaking of the prison by force as there was still a sizeable number of inmates at large and damage was so extensive."

"It could not be guaranteed that any action would be successful and would not lead to more serious injury or loss of life". He added: "There was no question of anyone leaning on the governor."

Informal estimates circulating around the Home Office put the cost of renovating the jail at over £50m. To build a new jail on the same site would cost more, perhaps as much as £80 million.

Leading article, page 11



Visitors to the London Garden Show examining a set of giant Spanish vessels in white terracotta, one of a series of new products on display at the Alexandra Palace exhibition, which opened yesterday and stays open until tomorrow

Scots set for long review of election to parliament

By Kerry Gill

THE scene was set yesterday for a long discussion about the electoral system that would be adopted for a Scottish parliament, a priority for a Labour government.

The Scottish Constitutional Convention is to consider methods of proportional representation which could be used to elect members to an assembly in Edinburgh.

Some Scottish Labour MPs at the convention in Glasgow yesterday still believe that the "first past the post" system would be the best option.

In an unprecedented change in policy, however, the Scottish Labour Party's executive recently backed the principle of proportional representation. It agreed that a Scottish Parliament should use an alternative to the existing system — albeit, on the casting vote of the chairman.

It was clear yesterday that the majority in the convention favour this form of election. Labour's change of heart has removed a possible rift with the Liberal Democrats, also members of the convention,

who insisted on proportional representation.

The Conservative Party and the Scottish National Party have boycotted the convention, although some individual party members attend.

Canon Kenyon Wright, chairman of the executive committee, conceded that the issue of a voting system would be difficult and potentially divisive. He said: "This must not be allowed to detract from the enormous and astonishing progress we have made."

The debate, he said, would begin a period of intense, honest and difficult discussion before the convention's next meeting in July. "Having gone so far, having come to a common mind on the principles which would have seemed impossible just a year ago, none of us will allow the immense promise of this convention to be wrecked on the rock of insistence on the single voting system."

Mr Murray Elder, secretary of the Labour Party in Scotland, said that his party had shown great flexibility over electoral reform. "There are many in the party who will be disappointed if other participants in the convention are not prepared to show the same degree of flexibility and to look with an open mind at all the various options open to us," he said.

Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, said the convention must not be rushed into a decision on electoral procedure. There was, he said, plenty of time to discuss a system that would, hopefully, be in use for many centuries.

Mr Foulkes said: "Accountability is very important. If we lose the link between an MP and his constituency, that is not an increase in democracy. If we were to adopt a system where there would be tyranny of very small minority parties, that would not be an increase in democracy either."

Order on tax riot pictures

The Press Association and three other news organizations were ordered yesterday to hand over all published and unpublished photographs of last month's anti-poll tax riot in Trafalgar Square.

Judge Neil Denison, granting applications by the Metropolitan Police under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, said however that objections by PA, London Weekend Television and Associated Press were perfectly valid.

The judge, who two weeks ago ordered 25 newspapers and television companies to hand over films of the riot, said: "It would be wrong if organizations within the media were to back down and concede every application." He heard arguments that the public interest demanded that those responsible for the violence be caught and, if guilty, convicted.

Murder charge

Mr John Brady, aged 21, of Strabane, Co Tyrone, was charged yesterday with the murder of Mr David Black, a Royal Ulster Constabulary reserve constable who died last June in a bomb explosion. Mr Brady's mother and brother also face charges in connection with the killing.

Kidnap foiled

A bogus NSPCC official who has tried to abduct at least three children is being sought by police. In the latest incident the fair-haired woman in her twenties tried to persuade a mother aged 19 in Salford, Greater Manchester, to give up her baby so that it could be "taken into care".

Actress verdict

Elizabeth Finlayson, who acted in the television series *Coronation Street* under the stage name Lisa Lewis, was put on probation for two years at Manchester Crown Court yesterday for swindling £10,000 in welfare benefits. Lewis, aged 26, of had tried to kill herself, the court was told.

Chess winner

Michael Adams, aged 18, the British chess champion, won his second round game against Jonathan Levitt bringing him level with Bent Larsen, the Danish grandmaster, in the Watson Farley and Williams international grandmaster tournament in the City of London.

Boat collision

Lifeboatmen rescued a 36ft Swedish yacht in the Channel yesterday, 21 miles off the Sussex coast after it collided with a Soviet fishing trawler in stormy weather.

Car price rise

Most Ford cars are to increase in price by an average of 3.9 per cent from May 1. This is the second time this year that Ford has raised its prices, after an average 4.4 per cent rise in January.

CORRECTIONS

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland was wrongly described as being still Norwegian Prime Minister in early editions yesterday. The present Prime Minister is Mr Jan Syse.

Although the Prince of Wales makes an annual contribution to the church of St Mary The Virgin, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, the vicar, The Rev John Hawthorne, tells us that the Prince has not specifically promised £30,000 as reported in early editions on Thursday.

Writers see moral rights lost through Act waiver

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

WRITERS' moral rights, in the terms of a Berne Convention, are being trampled by film and television companies taking advantage of a "scandalous" clause in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act.

Authors, according to the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, are being pressured into surrendering the moral rights to their work because, unlike similar laws in most other European countries, the Act adds a waiver.

The moral rights are in the 1886 Convention which cites the "droit moral" of authors, and was updated in 1971. It was incorporated into British law in the 1988 Act which came into force last August. Rights include "paternity" to ensure that an author is credited with a work, and "integrity" which demands that a piece of writing should not be altered to the detriment of the author's reputation.

According to the guild, British television and film companies have been swift to take advantage of the waiver, with "let outs" written into contracts.

Mr Bryan Forbes, president of the Writers' Guild and an actor, writer, director and producer, said that he had suffered over a recent film script, "I fought for six months but in the end I had to agree because otherwise there would have been no contract. I lost the battle, and I lost the battle, what chance have less experienced writers got? It's a form of censorship."

Other writers have joined the campaign being waged by the guild and by the British Copyright Council to have the waiver removed from the Act.

Miss Jill Hyam, a television writer, said: "Under this system it's like handing over a child to a complete stranger to abuse as they wish."

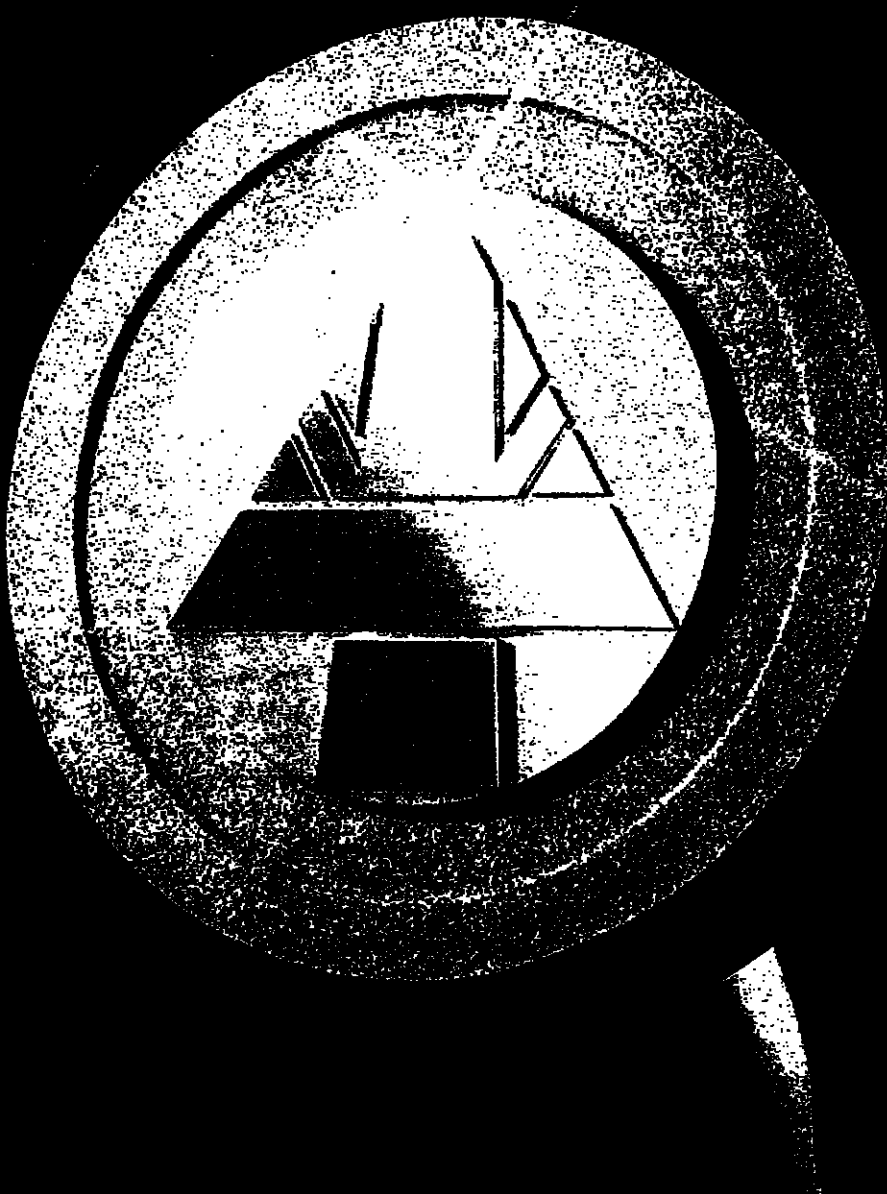
● The BBC signed television co-production deals worth a record £30 million with foreign broadcasters last year.

The deals resulted in top series such as *Jeffrey Archer's Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less*, Michael Palin's internationally successful *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *Portraits of a Marriage*.

Half the money — a 50 per cent increase on the previous year — came from agreements with United States networks, BBC Enterprises said.

A quarter came from Europe, while deals with the Japanese — the most significant area of new business — brought in nearly £3 million.

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M1 air crash report urges better pilot training

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE draft report into the cause of the British Midland Boeing 737 crash on the M1 near Kegworth, Leicestershire, last year in which 47 people died, has been sent to the two pilots and other "interested parties".

They have 28 days in which to comment on the findings by the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) which could profoundly affect the layout of flight decks and the way pilots are trained to use electronic instruments.

The report contains 27 separate safety recommendations, many of which have been implemented. Much of it, however, is devoted to a detailed analysis of the "ergonomics" of the display panel which airlines and aircraft manufacturers will study closely and which questions the relationship between a flight deck crew and new instruments which rely on light emitting diodes.

Another section deals with training by British Midland and other airlines to familiarise crew with the new "glass cockpits" and how to interpret instruments which may provide new information.

The report criticises the training methods for dealing with severe vibration and the smell of smoke and calls for new procedures during simulator training.

It also questions the design of the instruments, which are small and displayed on a screen in front of the pilot. Although the report does not

blame anyone for the accident it says that Captain Kevin Hunt and his First Officer Mr David McLelland shut down the right hand engine in the mistaken belief that it was suffering severe vibration and may have been on fire when the problem was in the left hand engine.

The pilots have maintained throughout that they had no indication of a problem with the left hand engine although the report says that tests and recordings taken from the flight data recorder indicate that the vibration indicators and the exhaust gas temperature gauges both indicated a serious failure.

In future, the AAIB says, aircraft should be fitted with an automatic television recording of the instruments as well as a trace recording on tape so that, in the event of an accident, investigators can replay the cassette within the "black box" and see exactly what the pilots saw on their instrument panels.

The report traces the history of flight BD 092 from Heathrow to Belfast on the evening of January 8 last year. As it reached 29,000 feet the crew smelled smoke and noticed a "moderate to severe" vibration. They diagnosed the problem as coming from the right hand engine and throttled back. As they did so the smoke and vibration disappeared and two minutes later they shut the engine down completely.

In fact a phenomenon known as resonance had shattered the fan blades in the left hand engine and this became catastrophic when they asked for full power just before landing.

The aircraft smashed into an embankment on the motorway just short of East Midlands Airport killing 47 passengers and badly injuring the two pilots.

Aircraft engines do occasionally break up in flight, the report says, and the manufacturers, Snecma of France, found the exact cause when two other similar engines experienced similar failures.

Among other recommendations in the report, the AAIB calls for the installation of cameras in the tail to enable pilots to see the outside of an aircraft. Had such a device been fitted to the crashed jet the crew would have seen sparks coming from the left hand engine and realised that this was where the problem lay.

The report also calls for extra strengthening to floors and seats to give passengers a greater chance of surviving an impact, and for restraint harnesses for all children aged less than two.

The distribution of the report to interested parties will cause legal complications at the inquest on the victims on May 9. Although accident investigators will be called to give evidence they will be prevented from detailing their findings because the report still remains strictly confidential, even though lawyers representing the manufacturers, the airline and the pilots, will all have copies.

The final report is unlikely to be published before late summer after amendments following consultation with those involved and approval by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Transport Secretary.

Even then a full judicial review of the findings can be called for over unfair criticisms or comments.

European air traffic disrupted

By Lin Jenkins

EUROPEAN flights were disrupted yesterday by a 24-hour strike by air traffic controllers in Paris but services were expected to be back to normal for the busy holiday weekend.

Most flights on Europe's busiest route between London and Paris were cancelled, and services to the eastern Mediterranean suffered delays as they were re-routed across Germany and Belgium.

There were no flights to the French capital from London City airport, by airlines Brymon Airways and London City Airways, or Stansted airport, Essex, by Air France and Air UK, but a skeleton service did operate from Gatwick and Heathrow.

The disruption was not as widespread as first feared. The controllers allowed two flights an hour into the air space around Paris.

A Gatwick spokesman said: "Because of that concession there are some flights getting to Paris and it helps prevent alternative routes clogging up. There are some delays on other European routes but none of them is very long."

British Airways put a 370-seat Boeing 747 on one of the Paris trips in order to accommodate passengers who were booked on the five cancelled services from Heathrow.

Air France cancelled six out of its 10 scheduled flights. At Gatwick airport, services to other parts of France were leaving about an hour late and there were short delays on services to Majorca, Corsica and Tenerife.

Ticket to ride

Mr Jason Gage, aged 20, a motor cycle enthusiast, has been given £300 by the Prince of Wales's Prince's Trust, to help him become a professional speedway rider. Mr Gage, of Northwood, Norfolk, has already spent £3,000 on trying to achieve his goal.

Wreck rights

The right to all shipwrecks washed up at Happisburgh, near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, is among the privileges purchased by a local man when he paid £18,100 for the lordship of the manor. The last wreck was a dinghy in 1969.



Racks of cut-price fur coats attract few British customers as the department prepares to close down after 140 years of trading at the store

Bargain day as Harrods shuts down fur salon

By John Young

THERE were plenty of bargains to be found in Harrods fur salon yesterday: a golden sable coat from £59,995 to £29,995, a wild female mink, from £13,995 to £6,995 and a full-length Russian lynx, from £69,995 to £14,995. There was, however, a disconcerting, half-empty look to the place and customers were thin on the carpets.

The fur salon, which has been trading for 140 years, is closing down. Grosvenor Canada, which has operated the concession for the last 15 years, will cease trading from the store this evening.

Harrods says that the decision was made on commercial grounds, based on the fact that the British public no longer felt the same way about fur as they did 15 years ago.

to give away some of its most expensive products.

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to close the salon had been made personally by the chairman, Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed.

"Mr Al-Fayed loves animals," he said. The decision had been made in January, 1989, nearly a year before the fire bomb attacks on a number of House of Fraser stores, which were assumed to be the work of animal rights activists. There was no question of bowing to terrorist threats, he said.

Mr Denis Grosvenor, president of the Fur Trade Association, described the Harrods decision as "irresponsible". More people were buying fur than ever before and the big problems were with animal rights activists, he said. "This was a mistake," he said.

the most profitable department in the whole store," he claimed. "We sold between £2 million and £3 million-worth of furs in the past two months - 90 per cent of them to British people."

Harrods' response was that the only reason for the boom in sales was the huge reductions introduced for the sale, which began on February 16. Until then business was almost at a standstill.

Mr Grosvenor said that he would shortly be opening up his own shop only a few hundred yards away in Sloane Street. In the meantime, a "best-of" department store had offered to buy all the stock at Harrods at the full price.

Unlucky at traffic lights leads study on eyesight

VICTIM of a traffic accident at the junction of the A1 and the A10, yesterday, when a motorist killed a pedestrian, has been asked to take part in a study on eyesight.

The study, which is being carried out by the Department of Transport, is aimed at improving the safety of drivers who are involved in accidents at traffic lights.

The study will involve a series of tests on the eyesight of drivers who are involved in accidents at traffic lights. The tests will be carried out by a team of experts from the Department of Transport.

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Survey shows most MPs favour embryo research

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

MOST MPs will vote in favour of embryo research, according to a survey published yesterday.

Sixty per cent of the 333 MPs who took part in the survey by the BBC said they would support research up to 14 days on the embryo.

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argued against it. Mr Peter Thorneycroft, Tory MP for Bolton North East, said, a leading member of Progress, said: "The survey clearly demonstrates that the vast majority of MPs constituents want to see this life-giving work continue under statutory control and regulation."

They say that recent evidence of the effectiveness of the programme fails to show conclusively that deaths from the disease are reduced by screening.

However, three doctors from Sandwell Health Authority, West Bromwich, in the West Midlands, say that a pilot scheme running for some years in Edinburgh shows that older women in the age group, who may be more at risk of the disease, are less willing to take part than younger women.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister for Health, defended the system in an interview on BBC Radio 4 yesterday. She said Britain was the first country in the European Community to introduce a nationwide programme based on a computerized call and recall system for patients.

The national breast cancer screening programme, which has been almost fully introduced in Britain, could be an expensive failure, and is ethically doubtful, specialists say in a letter to *The Lancet* today.

An editorial in today's issue of *The Lancet* calls on MPs to contribute to "an educated and sensible debate, rather than a screaming match."

It says: "The ethical status, and thus the legal protection that society gives to the early stages of human development is not just a matter of scientific observation. Philosophical, conviction, and religious belief must be taken into account, in a reasoned and tolerant atmosphere."

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James Watt's statue ends its travels across Scotland

By Kerry Gill

THE wanderings and humiliations suffered by one of Scotland's most famous sons, the engineer James Watt, will come to an end today when his statue is trundled across central Scotland to its final resting place at Heriot-Watt University.

The statue of Watt, who developed the steam engine,

was unveiled in 1854, but it has taken almost 150 years to rest in peace in the sylvan groves of the Riccarton campus west of Edinburgh.

The 6ft tall statue is modelled on an original sculpture now in Westminster Abbey. It shows the Greenock-born engineer-inventor seated, with papers on his lap and a pair of

mathematical dividers clutched in his hand.

The university takes its name from Watt and was established partly as a memorial to the great engineer. Over the years, however, generations of students have not treated his solemn stone figure with the respect it deserved.

Watt's statue was first sited in the centre of Adam Square, in front of the Watt Institution and School of Arts, which predated Heriot-Watt University. In 1870, Adam Square was demolished to make way for the new Chambers Street in the centre of Edinburgh.

The institution was rebuilt there and Watt's statue positioned on the first floor. It was shifted again last July just before the university vacated its Chambers Street premises to consolidate its position outside the city.

Watt's figure was moved yet again, to Shotts, Lanarkshire, for a clean-up. Today the statue will be lowered on to a permanent plinth in front of the James Watt Centre at Riccarton.

Inheritance provides £11.5m windfall for museums

By John Shaw

THE Government has accepted six paintings in lieu of inheritance tax liability of £7,329,387, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said in the Commons yesterday. The decision brings total government expenditure on the scheme in the financial year just ended to a record of over £11.5 million.

Four of the pictures came from the estate of the late Mrs Eva Borthwick-Norton in Hampshire, and satisfied tax of over £6.5 million. In her will, Mrs Borthwick-Norton directed that the pictures should either be passed to or be

displayed at the Royal Scottish Academy.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, is to allocate the paintings "in a manner consistent with the testator's wishes as expressed in her will", Mr Luce said in answer to a parliamentary question from Sir Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove.

There has been a dispute between the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland over the allocation of the paintings. Mr Rifkind is expected to make an announcement in due course.

Mrs Borthwick-Norton died aged 96 in February, 1988. She directed

that the pictures, a portrait by Rubens, a view of Wageningen by Hercules Seghers and two full-length portraits by Gainsborough, should pass to the Academy.

Although the announcement does not indicate where the paintings will be displayed, it is believed future arrangements are under discussion between the academy, the National Gallery of Scotland and the Scottish Education Department.

Mr Luce said the other pictures included a portrait of the children of Henry Herbert, First Lord Rochester, by William Beechey in lieu of £151,489 tax, and a painting by Lucas de Heere entitled "The Fam-

ily of Henry VIII: an allegory of the Tudor succession", in satisfaction of £527,898 tax.

The acceptance of the Lucas de Heere and the group of four paintings was made possible by Lord Gowrie in 1985, and brings the total call on the reserve for 1989-90 to £9,977,898 and total expenditure on the acceptance in lieu scheme for that year to over £11.5 million.

"This is a record amount for a single financial year and demonstrates beyond doubt the important and vital role of the scheme and its benefits to individual estates. In accordance with the conditions

on which they were offered, the Beechey and de Heere will remain in situ at Highclere Castle, Berkshire, and Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, respectively.

Miss Heather Wilson, who handled negotiations for the acceptance on behalf of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said last night: "We are delighted. The scheme is healthy and a wide range of objects has been accepted for museums throughout the country. The total purchase grant for our national museums stands at about £13 million, so this scheme is incredibly important for them. It has produced a wonderful windfall."

what use is a £100 cheque card?
none at all if you don't write cheques over £50.

China reacts angrily to vote for Nationality Bill

From Jonathan Brande
Hong Kong

CHINA reacted swiftly and angrily yesterday to Parliament's second reading of the Nationality Bill, calling it a breach of Britain's solemn international obligations and an attempt to retain control over Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese control.

Local people, however, complained that the offer of full British citizenship to 50,000 key Hong Kong families does not go far enough.

A spokesman for the New China News Agency, China's de facto embassy in the colony, said the Bill conflicted with the memorandum on nationality attached to the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong. It also

breached China's nationality laws under which all ethnic Chinese in Hong Kong are considered Chinese nationals.

He attacked Britain's decision to award passports without consulting Peking and gave a warning that far from encouraging key personnel to remain in the territory the Bill would be divisive and lead to an increased exodus from the territory.

He said the Bill was an attempt to change "the Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong" sentiment of the Joint Declaration to "British people ruling Hong Kong".

Warning that China will not recognize the new passports, the spokesman said Peking reserved the right to take unspecified "corresponding measures".

Hong Kong legislators, un-

daunted by the Chinese attack, vowed to continue the fight for more passports. Dr Leung Chi-hung, Legislative Councillor, said the council would push for full United Kingdom citizenship for all 3,750,000 British subjects in the territory.

Mr Jack Edwards, a campaigner for war veterans' rights, welcomed the Government's announcement that the widows of British expatriates and ex-servicemen would be granted the right to enter Britain and become eligible for citizenship after three years residence.

He said, however, that it did not go far enough and demanded full passport rights for all of them.

BRITISH Asians yesterday accused Mr Norman Tebbit of being "hurtful, scandalous, very silly" and offensive to Britain's ethnic popula-

tion with his contention that Asians in Britain had failed to pass the "cricket test of loyalty" (Helen Johnston writes).

The former Conservative Party chairman, who led an unsuccessful Tory revolt against the Government's plans to give 50,000 Hong Kong residents British passports, had said in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper that the "cricket test" was an interesting one.

"Which side do they cheer for?" he asked. Were they still harking back to where they came from or where they were, he wondered. He suggested: "We've got real problems in that regard."

Professor Bhikhu Parekh, of Hull University, who recently stepped down as deputy chairman of the

Commission For Racial Equality, said Mr Tebbit's remarks were "scandalous".

"It is absolutely disgraceful for someone of his experience and stature to say this kind of thing. Is loyalty a matter of cheering a cricket team or of a fundamental affiliation to a country's way of life?"

Professor Parekh said the Asian community in Britain should be judged, among other things, by their ability to abide by the country's laws. By that test, he said, Asians would be adjudged much better than indigenous whites.

"They will not only be offended, but totally outraged — and they will feel betrayed," he added.

Norman Tebbit, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Local election campaign

Greens look to rustic romantics for a revival in the Cotswolds

By Richard West

THE last European elections produced a startling surge for the Green Party in all places, the very Conservative southern Cotswolds of Gloucestershire.

Further conservationist battles have helped to give the impression of a Green movement comparable with the campaigns in the Netherlands, West Germany and the United States, over the ozone layer, acid rain and Brazilian rain forests, and oil pollution.

On closer inspection, it seems that the Cotswold Greens are both milder and more parochial. In Stroud, where some of the locals staged a "sit-in" to save some Georgian shops eight years ago, a protest began last year to save beech trees lining the road to a supermarket. The protesters set themselves up in tree-houses.

Stroud, which is one of the few industrial towns in the Cotswolds, now has several Greens on the council and hopes for more.

On the way to visit a 19th century Gothic folly and but sanctuary, a typical Green weekend outing, I met Mr Michael Offord, who had once tussled with demolition men in an effort to save a 1940s hotel in nearby Nailsworth.

A cheese-maker by occupation, and a devotee of the novels of Evelyn Waugh, who lived in the area, Mr Offord is canvassing for the Greens in the local government elections. "People always ask, 'What are your policies?'" he said with a smile. However, he is heartened by the general hostility to the poll tax.

Income tax, even more than the poll tax, threatens the Cotswold Greens, who tend to belong to the hard-hat group of the low-income self-employed, with none of the comforts of pension rights, company cars, expense, paid holidays and insurance.

Typical Green jobs are upholsterer, maker of "natural furniture" (such as a mirror set in a piece of driftwood), potter, "biodynamic" farmer, or, to quote an advertisement, "self-employment" leather-maker specializing in made-to-order shoes for gentlemen.

Some of the most rustic make film of the Greens. "Off" have a half pound of that ozone-friendly butter," one said in a grocer's shop, where the background music was Elgar's *Cello Concerto*.

The invading loots who drove Evelyn Waugh from his home near Dursley, live on as bikers in leather jackets. A band of hippies invaded Horsley and kept the valley awake with an all-night rock concert. A few years ago, thugs at Cirencester invaded the Christmas midnight service in the medieval church, shouting obscenities.

"The next year, we were locked in," one of the

worshippers said, "but this time they thumped on the door, screaming the same four-letter words."

This part of the Cotswolds lies in or around what estate agents call "the Royal triangle", defined by the homes of the Princess Royal, Prince Michael of Kent and Prince Charles, who has landed the new extension at Cirencester Agricultural College because it uses local materials. He has endorsed local "eco-friendly" services, but had to confess

ONE third of the council seats in Stroud, 18 in all, are up for election this year. The Conservatives are the largest single party on the council with 22 seats and do not have overall control and are frequently defeated by ad hoc alliances involving Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. Labour holds 14 seats, the Liberal Democrats 10 and the Greens three. The Greens, who are contesting eight seats, are hopeful of boosting their representation while the Conservatives need a net gain of seven seats to take control.

that he could not afford to adapt his boiler to burning stable, approved by ecological engineers.

Cotswold Greens, who are also Anglicans, are divided about whether to go along with Prince Charles on revising the 1662 Prayer Book.

After the last European elections, some of the New Right intellectuals floated the theory that Greens were really Reds in a new guise.

The Cotswold Greens, however, are not ideologists, certainly not of the left. Some support the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament but take little interest in campaigns over South Africa, Northern Ireland and Central America. Militant feminists and homosexuals are not in evidence; indeed most of the Cotswold Greens have large families, reared on muck, bathous organic tomatoes and sour, chemical-free apples.

The programme for next month's Nailsworth Festival bills such fare as: "Men's Wounds/Men's Mysteries... we will explain our relationship to myths and archetypes such as the Great Mother and the Wild Man." There is a course in Vase Painting and Eurythmy, and a musical drama on Ivor Gurney, "Gloucestershire's poet, composer and tormented genius".

There is a week's Workshop of Living Water: "John Wilkes has been investigating the language of water. Inspired by Theodore Schwann (1910-1986), these investigations have been based on the metamorphic potential manifesting in water." The workshop begins with a lecture, "Water-Sensitive Chaos", and ends with an optional visit to Ewe Burin's "Sewage Garden" at Oaklands Park.

Labour whips attacked over missing votes

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership was under attack yesterday after 54 of its MPs failed to vote against the Government on the second reading of the Bill to give 50,000 Hong Kong residents British passports.

As Mr Norman Tebbit criticized the opposition chief whip for failing to deliver Labour MPs into division lobbies against the Bill, Labour MPs on the left and right blamed its front bench for misjudging the mood of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The Labour whips, however, shrugged off the criticism. They said they had calculated that they would have been unable to defeat the Government because the minority parties had pledged to back the second reading of the

Doubts cast over future of Tebbit

CONSERVATIVE MPs were speculating yesterday on the impact the Hong Kong nationality Bill vote would have on Mr Norman Tebbit's leadership ambitions or desire to play the role of "king-maker" when Mrs Thatcher retires (Richard Ford writes).

Although Mr Tebbit had put himself at the head of 80 Tory MPs opposed to the legislation, only 43 of them voted against the Government in one of the most serious backbench Tory rebellions since Mrs Thatcher came to power.

While opponents in the party suggested in the immediate aftermath of the vote that the scale of the Government victory had seriously damaged him, Mr Tebbit typically turned the attack to Labour, blaming it for failing to produce all its MPs in the division lobbies.

His natural constituency in the party has been estimated at between 25 to 50 MPs from the right wing but even among them there are those who doubt whether he could be considered a serious challenger to lead the party.

British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill. The Government won the division by 97 votes. Labour whips said yesterday that 24 of their MPs abstained in the vote, with the rest being paired or given permission to be absent, in spite of the imposition of a three-line whip.

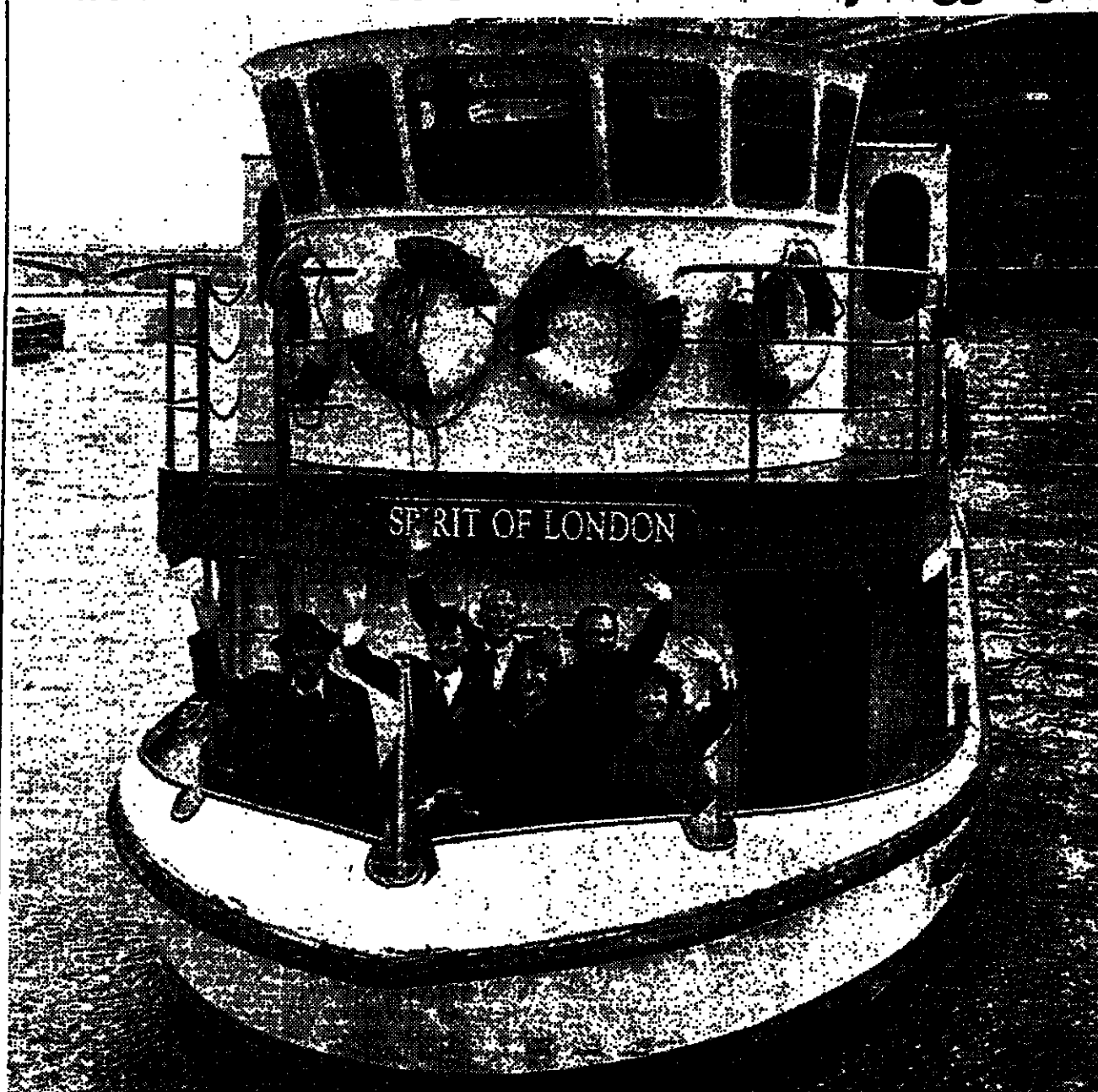
Front-bench spokesmen such as Dr Gordon Brown, Ms Clare Short, Mr Martin O'Neill and Mrs Llin Golding, a whip, were given permission to be absent.

Mr Tebbit called for the resignation of Mr Derek Foster, Labour's chief whip. He asked: "Where was the Labour Party? This was a three-line whip and they simply could not muster their troops. They have the most incompetent whips' office the Labour Party has ever had."

Several Labour MPs blamed the party's front bench rather than the whips. A right-wing MP accused Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, of putting forward unconvincing arguments, and Mr Max Madden, MP for Bradford West, said Labour's leaders had misread opinion in the party.

Labour MPs who did not vote were Ms Diane Abbott, Mr Joe Ashton, Mr Kevin Barron, Mr Tony Benn, Mr David Blunkett, Mr Keith Bradley, Dr Jeremy Bray, Dr Gordon Brown, Mr Ron Brown, Mr Dennis Canavan, Mr Bob Clay, Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Mr Jim Cousins, Mr Tom Cox, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Mr John Evans, Mr Sam Galbraith, Mr Ted Garrett, Dr John Gilbert, Mrs Llin Golding, Mrs Mildred Gordon, Mr Bernie Grant, Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Denis Howell, Mr John Hughes, Mr Robert Hughes, Mr Sean Hughes, Mr Greville Janner, Mr David Lambie, Mr James Lamond, Mr Ken Livingstone, Mr Allen McKay, Mr Robert McGarvey, Mr Max Madden, Mr James Marshall, Mr Eric Murrell, Mr Alan Meale, Mr Austin Mitchell, Mr Elliott Morley, Mr William O'Brien, Mr Martin O'Neill, Mr Robert Pary, Mr Tom Pendery, Mr Mervyn Rees, Mr Geoffrey Robinson, Mr Brian Sedgemore, Mr Peter Shore, Ms Clare Short, Mr Dennis Skinner, Mr Gerald Steinberg, Mr Roger Stott, Mr Pat Wall, Mr Brian Wilson and Mr James Wray.

Labour launches broadside on Tory 'rigging'



Labour took to the water yesterday to launch the latest phase of its local election campaign, with Mr Bryan Gould, second left, the shadow environment secretary, hosting a press conference on board a Thames launch to mark the start of the party's campaign for the May 3 election in the 32 London boroughs.

Afloat with Mr Gould were the television actors Rann John Holder, Michael Cashman and David Holder, Councillor Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington Council and (right) Mrs Cynis Thornton, chair of the London Labour Party.

In nautical style, Mr Gould condemned the "rigged" system of Government grants to local authorities, which he said had helped the two Tory "flagship" councils in the

capital, Wandsworth, and Westminster, to levy low poll taxes of £148 and £195 a person.

"The poll tax levels would be halved in most London boroughs if every London council had received the same levels of government grant as Wandsworth," Mr Gould said.

He said that 85.5 per cent of Wandsworth's total spending had been financed by central

government. Similar support would have led to a drop in the poll tax of Labour-run Hammersmith and Fulham from £425 to £203 and in Tory-controlled Bromley from £283 to just £89.

"I think that shows how the grant system has been rigged to produce the political outcome which will maximise the Tories' chances, the hope, of hanging on to their flagship

boroughs in Wandsworth and Westminster," Mr Gould said.

Next month's local council elections would finish between "the party was rigged in local government," Mr John Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday.

It was more than 12 years since Labour's Mr Tony Crosland had warned local government that "party time" was over, he said. Mr Crosland was right, he said. The rates had hidden the true cost of local councils but "the community charge brought home to everyone how much their local council costs," Mr Wakeham said.

Mr Wakeham said in Mid Glamorgan is to hold a referendum on whether to save an extra £15 levy on a poll tax charge of £266.66 by abolishing its community council.

Towyn waits for aid

Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative Party chairman, offered sympathy but no immediate cash help to flood victims during a visit to Towyn, Clwyd, yesterday. The Government had already doubled its aid for the devastated village to £150,000, he said.

Mr Baker promised that under the Bellwin formula the Government would provide local councils with 85 per cent of the cash required for the clearance operation. He said it would wait and see how much local authorities spend above the Bellwin formula before providing more money.

Rees-Mogg attacks plan to split Arts Council

Government proposals to re-structure arts funding with more power being given to the regions met stiff resistance in the Lords yesterday. A number of peers with links to the arts world expressed concern about the erosion of the arms-length principle of government funding.

Some were worried that the Arts Council would become an empty shell unable to attract the right people to serve on it.

Lord Rees-Mogg, a former chairman of the Arts Council, said that the debate arose out of the Wilding report and the statement to the Commons by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, on March 13.

The report, although controversial in parts, had been generally welcomed. It was, the statement by the minister, which might not have been perfectly understood, that had led to difficulties.

It had led also to the resignation of Mr Luke Rittner as Secretary General of the Arts Council.

The report had recommended substantial devolution of the arts from direct funding by the Arts Council to funding by the regional arts. But it recommended that some 40 companies with national status should remain directly funded by the Arts Council.

Mr Luce's statement had been taken to mean almost total devolution from the Arts Council to the regional arts association. It certainly set up a steering committee to be run by the head of the Office of Arts and Libraries, a civil servant

tion, only leaving the Arts Council with a strategic role plus oversight of the regional arts associations, plus oversight of the five big national companies, would actually leave the Arts Council which was not sufficiently strong to be able to do the job it was left with.

"If this proposal for complete devolution were to take place, the probability is that a good deal of money would be lost to the serious arts. The Arts Council would indeed be left a shell."

It had been suggested that in those circumstances the Arts Council would be left with a staff of 20 compared with the 160 at present and they would not have a sufficient range of experience and skill to undertake the tasks that would be expected of them.

It would not be possible to get people experienced in the arts to work for the Arts Council for nothing, or for its panels to continue their work, because there would be no attraction in working for a body that had been reduced to that dimension.

Starting with the BBC there had been a principle that governments kept out of the operation of broadcasting and the operation of the arts.

"Independence of the Arts Council is not something which should be regarded as a selfish benefit for the Arts Council itself. It is the separation between the creative artist, the performing arts companies and the government of the day, which has to be maintained."

He asked for three assurances from the Government: That

PARLIAMENT, FRIDAY APRIL 20 1990

he welcomed the proposed decentralization of control and responsibility. However, he recognized the dangers which might arise from devolving authority to regional bodies of varying efficiency and experience who could not be relied on always to exercise the skill, and perhaps not even the integrity, which had characterized the Arts Council as the state's main distributor of its patronage.

Could regional bodies resist the temptation of politicians at local level to impose their will upon regional bodies as successfully as the Arts Council had resisted the temptation nationally? Possibly not.

The proposition of the arms-length principle was not to be thrown away but strengthened to ensure that it was adopted at a regional level, possibly even to a greater extent than it had existed at national level. Politicians must keep their fingers out of the pie.

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, another former arts minister, said that Mr Wilding had recommended that the money saved from the proposals should be used further to help the arts. But would the

Treasury ever agree to earmarking savings in such a way?

The minister had decided to leave the Arts Council with nothing more to do than allocate an agreed share of the whole to the major institutions. This was emasculating the Arts Council to an extent which was certainly not acceptable to him.

This was not a new situation but one peers had seen too often in the last few years where the Government thought up a scheme, almost invariably based on a reasonable desire to save money, and then forced it through in the teeth of those best acquainted with the practical realities.

Lord Goodman, a former Arts Council chairman, stressed the need to maintain the hallowed arms-length principle.

If the Government's policy were put into effect there would be great difficulty in finding an insurance company to issue a policy on the survival of the Arts Council.

Lord Rees-Mogg had put forward a compromise. This was to be supported in the sense that it is better to have something than nothing, but the Government should think again. The people who organized the policy knew little about the Arts Council and its functions which had nothing to do with money. It advised the Government, for example, on copyright, on censorship and

to suggest members. The Government should reconsider its decision.

For the structure to work it must be properly funded. A report on the future of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company had been submitted by the Arts Council and the formula suggested had been ignored. As a result, for five years, the Royal Opera House had suffered a reduction in its grant every year, so that last year it had sustained a 15 per cent cut in real terms. The Government was now offering an increase of 11 per cent, substantially more than inflation, but if the past two years were taken together, last year's very small grant of 1.7 per cent and the 11 per cent, there was still a cut over two years of 3 per cent.

The very worthy objective of getting more funds into the regions should not be at the expense of the major arts institutions of the country, because they served the nation as a whole.

Lord Amann, former chairman of the National Gallery, said it followed naturally from other policy decisions that there should be some devolution, but this created problems. Was the superb symphony orchestra in Birmingham to be considered a national orchestra or a provincial orchestra?

It was the end of an era. The Arts Council would look like the old University Grants Committee which the Government had abolished. The Arts Council was to be given the

for the rest of the country. If standards declined, then Britain would be bowed out of the cultural best and the whole country's standards would fall.

Lord Birkett (Ind.) said that there was a worry that in some subtle way membership of the regional boards, and perhaps the Arts Council itself, would become drawn from people who had very similar views. The House needed to be reassured that representation would be diverse.

Of the principles of independence and the degree of devolution, the former was by far the more important and any erosion of that would be most dangerous. The proposal to allow local councillors to become chairmen of the boards was also dangerous as it would introduce a political element.

Lord Gibson (Ind.) also a former chairman of the Arts Council, said that devolution had become inevitable because of the increase in the Arts Council's work. The only issue was one of degree.

The Wilding report had understood the danger of leaving the Arts Council — a successful embodiment of the arms-length principle — with too little to do. It was that which made him fear for the council's future independence. Scaled down it would become a talking shop and sooner or later a talking shop could be dispensed with.

Lord Bonham-Carter (Lib Dem) said that the Government was introducing a revolution in the

She said that all the regional chairmen should be members of the Arts Council otherwise there would be a genuine feeling that some regions would get a better deal than others. Equally, unless the Arts Council included those from all the regional bodies as a basic part of its decision-making process, the opportunity for "divide and rule" by government would increase dangerously.

She was worried because the gap between the Arts Council and the Government was becoming disturbingly narrow.

Lord Heselth, Government spokesman on the arts, said that there was nothing in the reforms which was intended to diminish the role of the Arts Council. The changes would enable the council to develop its key strategic role of determining national policy.

In addition, the council would retain and develop a wide range of specific responsibilities which could be handled sensibly only at national level. It would continue to fund directly the four national companies, the Royal Opera House, the Royal National Opera, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre, as well as the South Bank Centre and some other organizations still to be determined. It would also stay responsible for touring, innovation, broadcasting, international affairs, research, education and training.

The council would need to satisfy itself in future that the standards of excellence in the

representation from the boards would go up from three to five places.

Mr Luce recognized that there were concerns about his proposals. This was why he had appointed Mr Timothy Mason to manage the changes. It would be the job of Mr Mason, the widely-respected director of the Scottish Arts Council, to advise the minister on details after having consulted the bodies affected.

"The minister intends that the Arts Council will remain a strong and robust organization."

Nothing proposed by the Government would compromise the Arts Council's independence. Decisions about the allocation of the council's grant-in-aid, about artistic priorities and about the funding of individual arts bodies would continue to be the sole responsibility of the council and the regional boards.

Only two Bills get through

ONLY two of the 27 private members' Bills down for consideration in the Commons yesterday made any progress. Most of the five hours available was spent on a detailed discussion of the Licensing (Low Alcohol Drinks) Bill, which reduces low alcohol drinks that can be sold in non-licensed premises. The measure, which is sponsored by Sir Peter Emery (Hounslow, C), was given as

Scientists in warning over funding for quake work

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

SCIENTISTS gave a warning yesterday that an earthquake of the type which last year badly damaged the town of Newcastle in Australia, could happen in Britain, and that a lack of instruments and funds could hamper their chances of alerting the public.

Their warning comes from a study of the British earthquake of three weeks ago, which they now say was centred under Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, which moves 137 miles from the original location given — beneath Wrexham, in north Wales.

The researchers have also modified calculations of the size of the disturbance from magnitude 5.4 on the Richter scale to magnitude 5.0, or the equivalent of unleashing the energy of 1,000 tons of TNT (14 kms (8.7 miles) beneath ground).

The latest findings indicate that earthquakes of up to magnitude 6, of the type which devastated the town of Newcastle last year could happen in Britain.

Preliminary details were presented yesterday by scientists from the British Geological Survey's Global Seismology Research Group, from Edinburgh, to a meeting of the UK Geophysical Assembly at Plymouth. Rather than feeling

embarrassed by the mistaken location of the source of the earthquake, the researchers are using the incident to reinforce their case for an improvement in their seismic monitoring equipment and the establishment of a proper national network.

Earthquakes may be unusual events in Britain, but Dr Chris Brown, of the survey, said an event like the last would be devastating if it happened beneath one of the older cities like Birmingham or Liverpool.

The size of the disturbance, the second largest this century in the British Isles, was felt from Brighton to Cardiff and Exeter to Dublin.

Investigations are continuing, with seismic monitors surrounding the new epicentre in the search for after-shocks, which could provide crucial information about the type of geological fault that caused the violent movement.

Dr Brown said there were enormous gaps in coverage, especially in central England.

Scientists are uncertain how often earthquakes have shaken parts of the British Isles and how frequently they should be expected to arise.

Records show that in the past 150 years there have been shocks as large as the Bishop's Castle quake in the south of Britain.

Dr Brown said the risks of earthquakes were seldom taken into account in Britain when the sites and construction of bridges and tunnels were being considered.

He said such risk analysis was coming increasingly into the calculations of the nuclear and chemical industries, and they were among a potential customer group that the Department of the Environment was helping to identify as collaborators in a national seismic network.

The network is needed to help scientists pin down where and how the disturbances are most likely to occur.

The latest measurements from Bishop's Castle indicate how the rock strata moved.

Rather left helpless as boy died

A FATHER watched helplessly as his son, aged 14, was crushed to death on a football terrace, the jury at the Hillsborough inquest was told yesterday. Adam Spearritt went to the semi-final match with his father, Mr Edward Spearritt, and the two were trapped in pen four on the Leppings Lane terrace.

After the hearing the family's solicitor said that Adam's mother, Mrs Spearritt, had searched for 12 hours not knowing whether her son was dead or alive.

Due to the pressure of the crowd on Mr Spearritt he was unable to help his son. Professor Stephen Jones said death was from traumatic asphyxia.

The coroner also dealt with the inquest on Mr Gerard Baron, aged 67, a retired postal worker of Preston, Lancashire. He died from traumatic asphyxia. The level of alcohol in his body was nil.

Fund seeks rethink on transport

By Robin Stacey

CARBON dioxide pollution of the atmosphere from car exhausts will increase by more than 30 per cent in the next 15 years unless the Government and public get to grips with changing transport habits now, a report suggests.

If the changes are successful, carbon dioxide emissions could be cut by 20 per cent, according to *The Route Ahead*, a survey by World Wide Fund for Nature-UK.

Based on a comprehensive assessment of public attitudes to air pollution by MORI, the survey calls for far-reaching changes to reduce car exhaust emissions, responsible for 50 per cent of the greenhouse effect.

Cars also put out carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas, and nitrogen oxides, which contribute towards acid rain.

The WWF action plan ranges from reducing national speed limits to improving facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. It also proposes abolishing subsidies for company cars, making manufacturers use more efficient engines and increasing fuel prices.

The research by MORI showed that 67 per cent of those sampled want a greater price differential between leaded and unleaded petrol and more than half want the introduction of catalytic converters.

Just under half want more use of public transport, while 44 per cent back fuel efficiency standards for new cars, 39 per cent favour restricting city centre commuter traffic and 17 per cent approve a 60mph speed limit.

Gas canister arrest

A French tourist was arrested at the Central Criminal Court in London yesterday when he was found to have a CS gas canister in his possession. The man, aged 21, who set off the new high technology security system alarm at the court, was taken away for questioning at Snow Hill police station.

The unnamed man explained that the small canisters were freely available in France for personal protection and he was released after a caution.

Kray film panel

A panel of doctors at Broadmoor is to decide next week if Ronnie Kray will be allowed to see the new film about his life of crime, *The Krays*.

Rape sentence

Kenneth Sweeney, aged 22, of Veronica Crescent, Kirkcaldy, who pleaded guilty to two charges of assault and rape on two sisters, aged four and six, was jailed for 10 years at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

Cut in hours

More than 1,200 workers at the Vosper Thornycroft shipbuilding yards, Hampshire, yesterday agreed to a new pay and conditions package including a two-hour reduction in the working week.

Four-ton lens

A 13ft wide, four-ton lens worth more than £5 million, is the main exhibit in the new National Lighthouse Museum, Penzance.

Castle for sale

Riber Castle, standing in 25 acres high above Matlock, Derbyshire, that changed hands for £540,283 years ago is for sale as a wild-life park for offers around £1.5 million.

Bank remand

An unemployed man, Akim Guletskin, aged 36, of no fixed abode was remanded in custody until May 4 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday accused of attempting to steal £9 million from the National Westminster Bank.

Cars destroyed

A 1961 Porsche, valued at £20,000, was one of seven cars destroyed yesterday in a garage fire at Whistable. A man is helping police.

Police meeting

The Labour-controlled Derbyshire Police Authority has arranged a meeting with Lord Ferrers, Home Office Minister, to try to resolve the stalemate over the appointment of Mr John Wesley as chief constable.

Lesser flamingos multiply through the looking glass



THIRTY lesser flamingos surrounded by their own reflections at the Wymondley and Westlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire yesterday, could be forgiven for thinking they had strayed through the looking glass into wondrousland (Ruth Gladhill writes).

The pink flamingos are the subject of an experiment with mirrors to persuade them that they are surrounded by thousands of other flamingos, so they would be in their natural habitat. By simulating this

aspect of their African lifestyle, it is hoped to encourage them to breed in captivity and so avoid replenishing the flock from the wild.

No zoo in the world has succeeded yet in persuading small flocks to breed although a single chick is reported to have hatched in the United States.

The idea of installing six 8ft by 4ft mirrors in their house at Slimbridge is that the birds, which have been kept there since 1961, will believe their numbers to have been suddenly

enlarged. Dr Simon Pickering, flamingo research officer at Slimbridge, who developed the scheme with the late Sir Peter Scott, has tagged each bird and pairings have already been noted.

In the wild, the lesser flamingos go through a dramatic display period before they breed.

"When displaying they come together in a tightly packed group of birds where they touch each other. They then do this head flapping, when they hold their neck erect and

move their head from side to side. They make a honking, braying noise and do wing salutes. They flash out their wings and this exposes the crimson and black feathering.

"When we installed the mirrors it was quite dramatic. They started wing flapping and honking and pushing each other around.

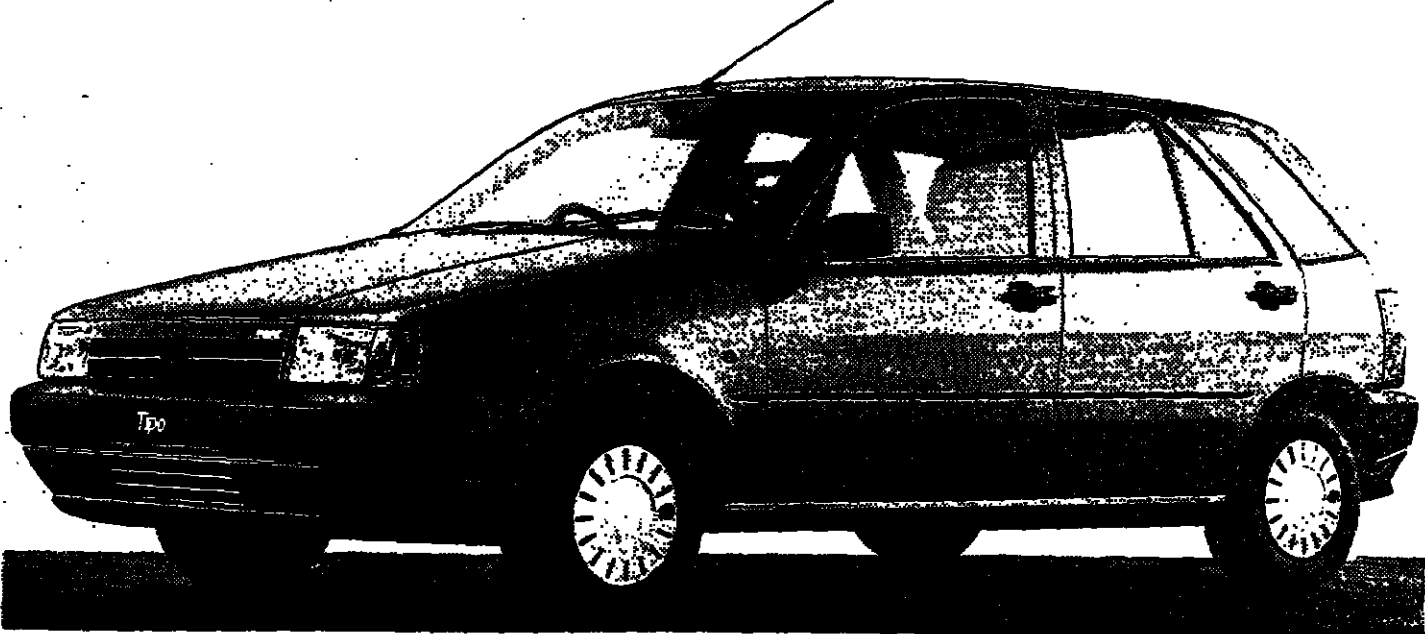
Eggs may be laid in June. Slimbridge was the first place in the UK to breed Caribbean, Chilean and greater flamingos.

● A campaign to rescue the stone-

curlew, one of Britain's rarest birds, from the threat of extinction has been launched in Berkshire. Only 160 breeding pairs still exist, mainly in the Breckland of East Anglia (Michael Hornsby writes).

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is to seek the help of farmers and landowners in creating and conserving the habitats that the stone-curlews need to breed. The first of the birds started arriving this month from their wintering grounds in Europe and Africa.

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Minister spells out South Africa's negotiating stance

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

DR GERRIT Viljoen, South Africa's Minister of Constitutional Development, predicted yesterday that Pretoria could reach agreement with black leaders on a new constitution within two years.

In an interview with *The Times* he gave a foretaste of the negotiating position Pretoria will adopt in the talks. Dr Viljoen, who met Mrs Thatcher yesterday, is regarded as the most influential member of President de Klerk's Cabinet.

He will be part of Pretoria's team which will meet Mr Nelson Mandela and 11 other African National Congress leaders for preliminary talks on May 2. He said it would be mainly a "getting to know you" session, to be followed by lengthy talks about talks on pre-conditions the ANC has set for full-scale talks.

This stage, which will involve reaching an agreement on the release of political prisoners and on ending the state of emergency, could be

completed by the end of the year, and would be followed by talks on a new constitution.

"It would be my goal to achieve tangible results within the first two years," he said. The main talks will include other black leaders, including Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland and leader of the Inkatha movement.

Dr Viljoen, aged 63, former chairman of the Broederbond and one of the main authors of Pretoria's reforms, spoke to *The Times* inside the South African Embassy. Outside there was not a demonstrator in sight and barricades had been stacked on one side. After a day-and-night protest lasting four years, anti-apartheid groups ended their permanent presence about three weeks after President de Klerk's historic speech on February 2 announcing the unbanning of the ANC.

The interview followed two speeches this week by Mr de Klerk, who promised the repeal or amendment of the four remaining Acts which have been seen as pillars of apartheid. He promised universal suffrage but again ruled out majority rule, and gave an assurance that minority "groups" would be protected.

Group rights have always been taken as a code phrase for constitutional guarantees for whites, and most have assumed that Pretoria has built its negotiating approach around it. But Dr Viljoen gave an entirely different emphasis.

It would appear that Pretoria's priorities are local autonomy, first group rights, and then the latter element is based far more on a voluntary approach than has been reported up to now.

Dr Viljoen foresaw a federation in which regional governments would have a high degree of autonomy. The regions would replace both the existing homelands (apart from the four which are considered independent) and the white areas and would have control of their own judicial systems and police.

Although he did not make it explicit, this would allow people to move to a region ruled by a local government

they could accept. He put great emphasis on devolution. It appears that Pretoria's strategy for protecting the white interests depends much more on devolution than on its proposals for the central government system. While these remain secret, Dr Viljoen spoke in favourable terms about an adapted version of the "grand indaba" suggested for Natal.

It would give guarantees to each of the main groups, ensuring that no one group could prove dominant. This has been seen as a way of preventing majority rule, but Dr Viljoen said groups would be defined by culture and language rather than race.

Membership of the groups would be by choice, not compulsion. A white might choose to join a group for those of Afrikaner and English background, but could equally choose not to belong.

"It is a model which with certain adjustments could form the basis," he said. It would reconcile conflicting demands for majority rule and protection of minorities.

The ANC has always opposed any approach based on "groups" as a device for dividing the black vote. The Zulus, Xhosas, Tswana and others would be treated as separate entities, reducing their ability to dominate the political framework.

At present all South Africans are registered as members of one of the four main racial groups, under the Population Registration Act, the fundamental building block of apartheid.

In his speech Mr de Klerk said it would be amended but made no promise to repeal it. However, Dr Viljoen went much further. "There is no way it could survive a new constitution... It will have to go, it must go."

JOHANNESBURG: Anti-apartheid campaigners denounced the police shooting of four black youths on Thursday. But Mr Walter Sisulu, a leader of the ANC, said the episode would not stop talks with the Government. (Reuters)

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 10



Dr Viljoen: "Getting to know you" session with the ANC before talks about talks

Law fails to ease cruel fate of Untouchables

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

SALAIYA is no different from tens of thousands of other villages in India: it is stunningly cruel to the servile, hollow-cheeked Untouchables who are the Mahatma's Harijans (Children of God).

Harijans are instantly recognizable, especially in villages. They are the filthiest, the thinnest, the most obsequious. They are the only ones dealing in death and excrement. A scrawny man carrying a bundle on his head is a Harijan; so is the wretched woman pulling oozing black sludge from a well.

It is hard for Harijans, if not forbidden, to raise their eyes to a high-caste Hindu. Their very shadow will pollute any Brahmin, who must ritually purify himself of the violation.

Imagine, then, the towering courage of a group of Harijan women in Salaiya who refused when a group of upper-caste men ordered them to strip naked and dance. It caused a riot. Caste members destroyed 31 Harijan houses, killed one man and injured 27 other people.

Such atrocities are not rare: the only difference in Salaiya is that it was the first to come to light since the introduction of a new law, the Prevention of Atrocities Act.

This legislation is the latest in a battery of weapons aimed at outlawing Untouchability.

Kashmir talks agreed

Islamabad

PAKISTAN wants peace with India and has agreed that their foreign ministers should meet in New York to ease tensions over the disputed Kashmir region, the Foreign Ministry said here on Thursday.

A spokesman said the meeting would probably be in the last week of April, adding: "Pakistan remains ready to hold this meeting... to ensure that India and Pakistan

do not drift into a situation of unnecessary and avoidable confrontation."

In a slight easing of the tension between the two countries yesterday, Indian authorities in the two-thirds of the Kashmir valley which they control eased their curfew for five hours, in response to pressure, to allow Muslims to attend mosques on the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan. (Reuters, AFP)

which has doggedly survived for centuries because it enjoys the ultimate justification of all, the perception of divine authority. To be an Untouchable is to be punished for misdeeds in a past life.

The caste system is a brilliantly conceived system of social control, perpetuated enthusiastically by Brahmins through the ages.

It explains why the ceaseless swirl of strife and social upheaval in India rarely has anything to do with the pursuit of common justice. Wealth rubs shoulders with poverty, without the rich being embarrassed or the poor feeling resentful.

Salaiya is in the sprawling central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, which is run by the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party. It is not an organization given to tolerance of Harijans. It believes in the old order, free of the creeping curse of individualism and breakdown of caste barriers in the towns.

Last month's attack on Salaiya's Harijan community prompted demands in Parliament for an inquiry, which the government of Madhya Pradesh established under pressure from Delhi. Its report, just published, is a classic whitewash. It said a clash between upper-caste Hindus and Harijans happened in the charged atmosphere of the

festival of Holi, which was once a fertility rite and is now a raucous occasion for throwing coloured water and powders over each other.

The affair will probably end there, sending a clear message to Harijans that the new law is as empty as all the others. Not that rural Harijans are inclined to challenge their lot: it is the cities that threaten the system. A Brahmin, after all, might find himself rubbing shoulders with a Harijan on the same crowded bus.

Ever since independence, successive governments have fought to eliminate caste discrimination. A report tabled in Parliament just before the last Government left office, however, showed how fruitless those efforts have been.

In rural areas, it said, Untouchables (called "scheduled castes" in official jargon) are not allowed to draw water from the common well, are not served in tea-shops, not allowed to pass through caste Hindu localities wearing sandals, and banned from riding horses at their weddings.

Caste divisions are encouraged and exploited by a large number of politicians. Castes have become a sort of political lobby, offering themselves as vote blocks out of loyalty for a particular politician or in return for money.

Against such entrenched forces, the Harijans of Salaiya do not have a hope.

Towns cut off as floods hit east Australia

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

THOUSANDS of people are stranded, towns cut off, and livestock dead as vast areas of eastern Australia are engulfed by the worst flooding seen in 30 years.

So far one-third of the state of Queensland and large parts of northern New South Wales — an area as big as Britain — are submerged by what are now described as huge inland seas. Last night people were fighting to save their towns, threatened by torrential rain. A natural disaster has been declared in Queensland where farmers were suffering a severe drought just 24 hours before record rainfall began to burst the region's network of rivers and dams.

The Royal Australian Air Force is evacuating families and is making emergency food drops to isolated towns and farms where stocks for people and animals have been destroyed. At least 15,000 sheep are estimated to have perished on low-lying pastures. Flooding has reached as far south as Sydney, which has received its average annual rainfall of 4½ inches within the first four months of this year. Yesterday roads and bridges were cut and families were being evacuated from the western suburbs along the Hawkesbury and Nepean rivers.

Worst hit is the outback channel country of Queensland, where 15 towns are under water in what inhabitants describe as great inland seas stretching over 500 miles from Birdsville in the west to Alpha in the east. All 70 families in Alpha were evacuated yesterday when its river flooded at a record 40ft. The town of Jericho was also evacuated after its river burst its banks.

Elsewhere people supported by emergency services are working desperately to build earth and sandbag barriers to hold back rising river levels threatening to flood more towns over the weekend. Food supplies are low in many places.

Hundreds have sought refuge in the region's highest town of Longreach, which although cut off by road has become a base for air force and civilian relief operations.

"There's water everywhere. We've never seen anything like it," Mr Rolly Gooding, proprietor of the packed Commercial Hotel, said over the telephone. "We're getting a bit low on food and grog (alcohol). We were supposed to get a three-tonne delivery of grog yesterday. We'll be all out by Saturday."

Tourists have been stranded on day trips to the town, some getting stuck in a train overnight. Mrs Sheila Smyth from Glasgow, who now lives in Longreach, said people were starting to run out of money.

In northern New South Wales, where 100,000 square kilometres of land is under water, Mr Ian Armstrong, the state's Agriculture Minister, appealed for the federal Government to send in army helicopters to rescue livestock

drowning in mud. Mr Neville Evans, a farmer, says he has lost more sheep in the past 24 hours than in the last eight months of drought. The residents of Nyngan worked throughout the night filling sandbags to beat the rising Bogan river which has flooded the countryside. The rising level of Sydney's main water source — the Warragamba Dam — had to be released, flooding towns and suburbs downstream yesterday.

● DHAKA: Tropical storms battered northern Bangladesh for the second consecutive day, killing 13 more people and injuring about 500, news reports said yesterday (AP reports).

Winds with an average speed of 60 mph destroyed rice paddies and toppled mud-walled houses, trees and electricity poles on Thursday night, according to reports.

Peasants massacred in Peru

Huancayo, Peru — Suspected Maoist guerrillas have killed at least 74 Peruvian peasants and Indians of the Campesino tribe in two massacres in the Amazon basin, police said. About 100 heavily armed attackers swept into the remote village of Naimoro, about 220 miles east of Lima, killing 30 members of a local peasant militia, police said.

In an attack six days earlier, suspected Shining Path guerrillas killed another 24 peasants and Campesino Indians in a nearby village. The two massacres, among the bloodiest in Peru's 10-year-old guerrilla war, suggested a major offensive by the rebels. (Reuters)

Gabon bows to democracy

Libreville — President Bongo of Gabon has agreed after months of anti-government protests to end single-party rule and permit democracy in the West African country.

He said that multi-party rule was not a miracle cure. Nevertheless he agreed to demands that parties be allowed to form immediately to contest legislative elections later this year. (Reuters)

Actress declares love for Trump

New York — Marla Maples, the actress blamed for the break-up of Donald Trump's marriage, said she was in love with the billionaire developer but was neither a home-wrecker nor a gold digger. Speaking publicly for the first time since February when she was named as the "other woman" by New York City's tabloid papers, Miss Maples, 26, said she "felt it was time that I took control of the situation". (Reuters)

British ghosts haunt Syria's star-laden hotel

From Christopher Walker, Aleppo

IT WAS very much business as usual in Baron's Hotel, the most historic watering hole for travellers in the Middle East and still under the same Armenian management as it was when Lawrence of Arabia was a regular guest in 1914.

In one corner of the wood-panelled bar, one of the two British diplomats permitted in Syria since relations were broken in 1986 was conversing in fluent Swedish, while nearby a pipe-smoking former MI6 officer was reminiscing about an eight-month journey he made on horseback between Istanbul and Jerusalem recently.

"It is comfortably uncomfortable, it has all the atmosphere that other hotels lack. The last time I was here, I was following the route of the First Crusade and I tethered my horse outside," recalled the former MI6 man.

Presiding over events, monitored by a member of Syria's Mukhabarat intelligence service posing unconcerningly as a tourist, was Mr Crikor "Coco" Mazloumian, aged 82, the manager, whose father and uncle founded the grey-stone hostelry in 1909.

Next door in the piano room, a favourite haunt of European royalty in the 1930s, a bill made out to "Monsieur Laurens" on June 8, 1914, bore witness to the famous



Middle East watering hole's champion drinker and non-drinker: Kim Philby and Lawrence of Arabia

Arabist's ascetic tastes: the sum of 16 napoleons had been subtracted from the total for six days' pension for a bottle of Corvot Rouge provided but never consumed.

"Lawrence would never drink alcohol, he had nothing stronger than lemon juice," explained Mr Mazloumian, leafing through the guest book which has attracted the attention of would-be American collectors recently. "He used to spend hours pacing up and down the terrace. He was a short, stocky, intelligent man who always stood out from my other guests. He never bought a rug without taking my father's advice."

In the 1920s, the terrace with its ornate lanterns was a

favourite spot for shooting wild duck on the neighbouring swamp. Today it looks over the bustling main street of Syria's second city, but despite the invasion of the car, Baron's retains its faded elegance and period feel.

Lawrence, who was working on an archaeological dig during his various stints, wrote some 60 letters from what he described in one as "this beautiful hotel". He was followed by a colourful list of visitors which ranged from German and Turkish spies to Kim Philby, the British double agent who strove hard to drink dry the well-stocked bar.

"Philby would come here with his American wife from Beirut, where he was stationed

for the *Observer*. He would start drinking about 10 am and go on literally all day," added Mr Mazloumian in his impeccable, BBC-accented English. "I was only amazed that with all that drink inside him, he never let the cat out of the bag."

The manager's English wife, Sally, Aleppo's only British resident, also recalled that Philby, despite his drinking, effortlessly charmed and deceived hotel guests and staff alike. "I thought he had the kindest eyes I had ever seen until I saw them looking out at me from the back of his book, *My Silent War*, and I realized how wrong I had been," Mrs Mazloumian said.

The jealously preserved visitors' book reads like an international *Who's Who*. Among the prominent guests, most of whom Mr Mazloumian recalled with uncanny clarity, were King Faisal I of Iraq; Kemal Ataturk of Turkey; Mr and Mrs Theodore Roosevelt; Princess Galitzine; Dame Freya Stark; David Rockefeller; Lady Mountbatten; Charles Lindbergh; Prince Peter of Greece; King Gustav of Sweden; Yuri Gagarin, the Soviet cosmonaut; Doris Duke, the American heiress; Gene Tunney, the boxer; General Auchinleck; the Duchess of Bedford; and Agatha Christie.

"She was here with her archaeologist husband, who

was conducting a dig. When she was fed up with camp life at the site, she would come and sit on her balcony, sip tea and lemon juice and write," Mr Mazloumian recalled. "When I asked her what she was writing, she would look at me like the Sphinx, but eventually she told me it was *Murder on the Orient Express*."

Although Baron's has been home from home for many nationalities, it is the British ghosts that haunt its stone corridors most strongly. Since being nationalized by the Syrian Government, standards have sadly declined from the heady days when wild boar, pheasant and caviar were regularly on the menu.

"I remember Agatha Christie as clearly as if it were yesterday," said Mr Mazloumian. "She was extremely perceptive: she had a beautiful face and when she stared at you, you felt that her X-ray eyes could see right through you. Like Lawrence, she was extremely intelligent."

In its day Baron's has served as German, British and French regional army headquarters, and in 1941 a little-known figure called Charles de Gaulle gave a rousing speech from a balcony.

"The French officers suffered a terrific inferiority complex in relation to their British colleagues," the manager recalled.

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Billions to be spent on cleaning up polluted Med

By Our Foreign Staff

BILLIONS of pounds are to be set aside to rescue the Mediterranean, steadily becoming an ecological disaster area.

A two-year study by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank has found that around 650,000 tonnes of oil are spilled each year in the Mediterranean, more than 17 times the volume spewed by the Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound, Alaska—the worst ecological disaster in the United States.

Pollution and overfishing have reduced schools of fish in some areas of the Mediterranean by 80 per cent, says the report, officially presented yesterday in Rome, headquarters of the European Investment Bank.

A quarter of 150 Italian, French and Greek beaches analysed in 1988 were polluted to above the danger level. The report also describes how the great rivers that flow into the sea carry nutrients that cause abnormal growth of algae in the Adriatic and the Gulfs of Salónica and İzmir. It says coastal cities each day produce more than a million cubic yards of solid waste, some of which finds its way to the sea. Each year 550 tonnes of residue from chemicals used in agriculture flow into the Mediterranean.

While the countries of the north—Spain, Italy and France in particular—continue to be the principal polluters, a worse threat is posed by the demographic

pressures of the countries in the south and east of the basin. The population is expected to double from 82 million to almost 170 million by 2025.

The banks propose helping the Mediterranean countries establish programmes to protect the environment and clean up pollution. The World Bank, the European Investment Bank, UN development agencies and the European Community will make available financing for ecological projects.

The two banks will earmark \$15 million (£9.1 million) annually for the next three years to finance technical assistance on environmental issues to the Mediterranean nations, and about \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year after that to finance, in conjunction with individual governments, specific projects to safeguard the Mediterranean environment. The money would be in long-term, fixed-rate loans.

Experts say water pollution and the disappearance of agricultural land to urbanization have retarded the economic development of the southern and eastern Mediterranean.

ROME: The Italian Government has approved more than 400 billion lire (£198 million) in emergency funds to combat a drought which has hit Italy for the past two winters. A spokesman said yesterday that spending would start immediately to improve Italy's water supplies, particularly in the south, and for firefighting aircraft. (Reuters)



First tango in Peking: A bemused bystander in a Peking park, a cigarette firmly held in his right hand, watching intently as a young Chinese couple limber up for the day's work with some fancy footwork. The Communists continue to encourage exercise as an aid to better productivity

US seizure of 'fugitive' enrages Mexico

From Martin Fletcher Washington

LATE on the afternoon of April 3, a small private aircraft landed at El Paso airport, just north of the Mexican-US border. Out climbed three grim-faced men and a huge 22-stone 6 ft Mexican dressed in casual clothes who sauntered over to a small reception group.

"I am Dr Humberto Alvarez Machain," he announced with a smile, proffering his hand.

"I know who you are," snapped Mr Hector Berrellez, a special agent of the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

"You have the right to remain silent."

The three men accompanying Dr Alvarez who identified themselves as police officers, announced "Here's your fugitive", returned to the plane and swiftly departed.

This story appeared in the US edition of *Time* magazine last weekend. Along with a similar account on NBC television news, it has sent US-Mexican relations into a downward spiral which culminated in Mexico threatening to end all collaboration on fighting drugs.

What had so angered the Mexicans was the *Time* allegation

that the shadowy team which spirited Dr Alvarez out of the country had been offered a \$100,000 (£60,000) bounty by the DEA. "This would violate the most elementary norms of international law," declared President Salinas in a clear reference to the case during a speech on Thursday.

The DEA has denied a bounty was offered, but refuses to discuss the clandestine circumstances under which Dr Alvarez was captured and flown to America. Mr Richard Thornburgh, the US Attorney General, has ordered a full report. What is un-

deniable is that Dr Alvarez was high on the DEA's most wanted list. Known as "Dr Mengele", after the infamous Nazi physician, the gynaecologist, aged 42, from Guadalajara, is alleged to have assisted in the 1985 torture and killing of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a DEA special agent.

US authorities believe the killing was carried out by drug cartel leaders and senior police and military officers who wanted to know how much Camarena knew about Mexican corruption. Specifically, Dr Alvarez is alleged to have injected Camarena with a stimulant to prevent his heart from failing during his brutal interrogation.

He was one of 19 people indicted in their absence by a Los Angeles grand jury whose attempts to investigate Camarena's murder have been resisted by the Mexican Government. On arrival in the US he was flown straight to Los Angeles, where he pleaded not guilty and is being held without bail pending a full trial.

News of his capture provoked a torrent of protest by Mexican newspapers and poli-

ticians against outrageous *Yanqui* tactics.

On Tuesday the Mexican Government asked the State Department for details of his capture. Mr Thornburgh, who had the misfortune to be attending a conference in Mexico this week, ordered an investigation. On Wednesday Mexico submitted what it called a "very strong diplomatic Note" to Washington demanding an explanation. On Thursday Señor Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, the Mexican Attorney General, declared that joint anti-drug efforts were "at risk" if the US was behind the capture.

With the Bush Administration waging an all-out war on drugs, Mexico's co-operation is highly valued in Washington, but this is the second time this year that it has been jeopardized.

In January, NBC television infuriated the Mexican Government by broadcasting a documentary on the Camarena case which alleged widespread corruption in the Mexican police. Mexico took the remarkable step of responding with an advertising campaign on US television.

US moves to protect terrorist informers

Athens — The US has opened a post-office box to guarantee secrecy for people responding to a \$2 million (£1.2 million) reward for information on international terrorism, the US Embassy said.

The State Department announced in December that the US Government was empowered to offer the reward for information leading to the prevention of terrorist acts against American citizens and property outside the US, the Embassy said. (AP)

Female first

Bridgetown — Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados's permanent representative to the UN, has been named Governor General-designate, becoming the first woman to hold this office. (AP)

Blast death

Cairo — Attackers threw explosives at a Coptic Orthodox church in southern Egypt, killing a police guard but causing no damage to the church, authorities said. (AP)

Flight delays

Paris — Airlines cancelled or delayed about 1,000 departures and arrivals at airports in the Paris region yesterday due to a one-day walkout by air traffic controllers. (AP)

Contras plea

New York — Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar asked the Security Council for urgent approval for UN forces to oversee the demobilization of the Contras in Nicaragua. (Reuters)

Journalist dies

Sydney — Brian Hogben, aged 64, a senior executive of News Limited and one of Australia's most respected journalists, died on Thursday night after a long illness, the company said. (AFP)

Suspects hunted

Jerusalem — Nazi-hunters will turn over to the US, West Germany and Australia the names of 223 Lithuanian and Polish war crime suspects who fled abroad after the Second World War. (AP)

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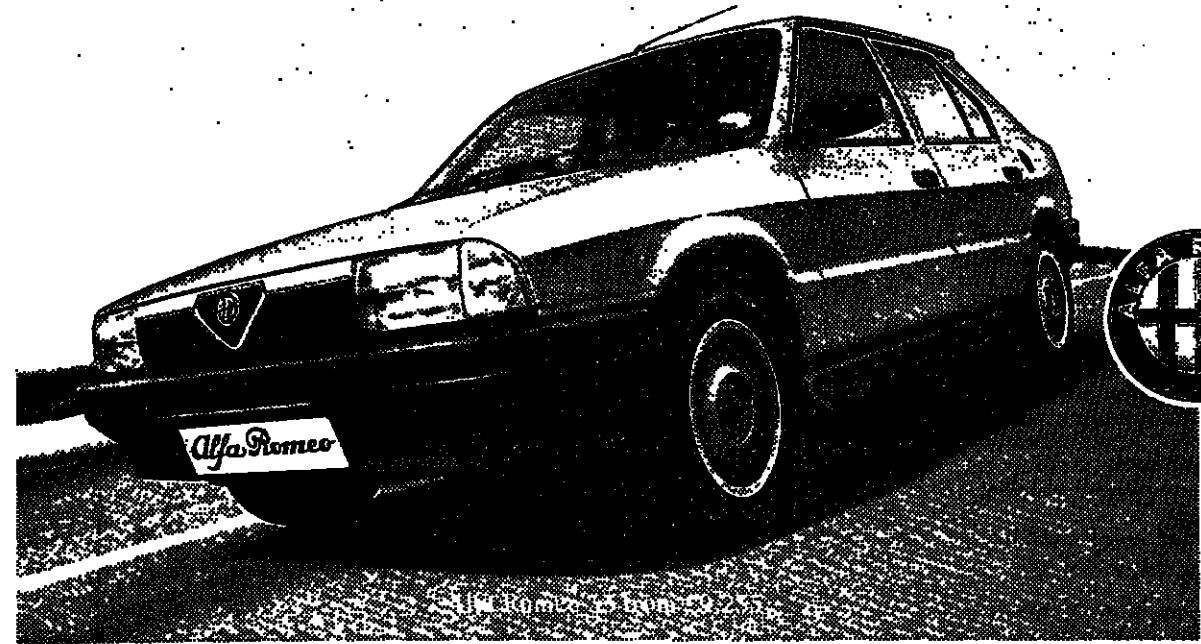
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Lebanon hostage 'will be freed'

From Juan Carlos Guncio West Beirut

SYRIA, through its newest friends in Lebanon, yesterday provided further assurances that one of the three American teachers held hostage by Muslim extremists would be released despite Washington's refusal to comply to a key demand.

Mr Hussein Musawi, the leader of the Baalbek-based Shia Muslim Islamic Amal faction — now the "Syrian wing" of the fundamentalist movement in Lebanon — told reporters that the release of one captive was "certain" but declined to say when.

His words countered speculation here that President Bush's refusal to send a senior diplomat to Damascus to complete release details had irreparably damaged the plan.

"The captors offer is serious. The offer will not be cancelled and is still standing, but the Americans are supposed to make a positive step. The Americans should not be arrogant and waste this chance," Mr Musawi said.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, the pro-Iranian group holding Mr Robert Pollitt, Mr Alan Steen and Mr Jesse Turner since January, 1987, said it had postponed the release because of President Bush's refusal to send Mr John Kelly, the US chief Middle East expert, to Damascus.

Describing this attitude as "arrogant, cowboy behaviour", Mr Musawi went on: "The Americans are playing heroes. The Americans should go to Damascus and kneel down to collect the gift presented by the (kidnapping) group."

Mr Musawi's forecast about an early release is to be taken seriously. The 43-year-old former teacher who turned into one of the most ardent followers of Iran's Islamic revolution still has good communications with Muslim groups holding most of the 17 Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon since 1985. However, his relations with Tehran have been strained because of his spectacular shift towards Damascus in the past year.

Cubans defy US drive to unseat Castro

From Charles Bremner, New York

SEVERAL thousand Cubans lining Havana's seaford shot arrows and catapults and fired anti-aircraft guns towards the United States on Thursday to mark their 1961 "Bay of Pigs" victory over a US-backed invasion attempt.

Billed as an act of defiance against the US, which stands a mere 90 miles away, the event commemorated the victory of President Castro's revolutionary government against a US-trained and financed invasion force of Cuban exiles.

Cubans at the ceremony debated whether the US would again launch such an attempt. From the US side of the waters there seems to be little need; the downfall of Dr Castro is viewed as so imminent that exiles have already divided up the Havana franchises for McDonalds and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

In Washington, the Bush Administration is tightening the diplomatic screws and is seeking to ease Dr Castro into the history books by bombarding the island with American-produced television.

Over the past week, Washington's Cuba watchers have been gleeful over the arrival in Havana of Mr Leonid Abalkin, the economist behind some of President Gorbachev's most radical reforms. His mission, it is assumed, was to tell the leader that his three-decade free ride was at an end.

Mr Abalkin did explain the "new reality" to Dr Castro, Soviet diplomats said, but he also made clear there was no question of Moscow leaving its old ally stranded. This was just one of several indications that the US celebrations are

premature. Discontent is indeed building among Cuba's 10 million people, driven by the deepening crisis that has brought meat rations to 3lb a month and turned even East-bloc consumer goods into blackmarket items.

A good barometer of the level of discontent will come later this year when the Pope visits the island.

Seasoned Cuba experts believe Dr Castro is managing to turn to his advantage the very isolation that he has created with his drive for old-fashioned police-state orthodoxy. Still able to draw on the reserves of loyalty he earned as a revolutionary leader, he is rallying the country, under the banner "Death before slavery", to prepare it for the far deeper sacrifices to "defy the Yankee imperialists".

He can count on support because, unlike his former East European colleagues, his revolution was home-grown and the bullying big power throughout Cuba's history has been the US, not Russia.

According to Señor Gabriel Garcia Marquez, probably the non-communist most privy to Dr Castro's thoughts, the Cuban leader is far from finished.

"I think that Cuba needs profound reforms such as a greater democratization of society," the Colombian novelist said in a rare interview last week. "The problem lies in how we get to that. It is a mistake to think that if these reforms are not carried out there will be a popular uprising like in Romania," he told the *Miami Herald*.

"As long as Fidel can manage the economy, he can stay in power indefinitely."

Venezuela ends fishery dispute

Part of Spain — Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela have signed a memorandum of understanding to try to reduce trouble in the Gulf of Paria between local fishermen and the Venezuelan National Guard.

Mr Arthur Robinson, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, announced the agreement after a three-day state visit to Venezuela. He said a joint commission would be set up to investigate incidents. (AFP)

Cholera zone

Kuala Lumpur — The Malaysian Government has declared Kelantan state, bordering Thailand, a cholera epidemic zone after confirming 309 cases of the disease, health officials said. (AFP)

Mengistu home

Addis Ababa — President Mengistu of Ethiopia has returned here from Harare where he attended Zimbabwe's 10th independence anniversary celebrations. (AFP)

مركزنا من الأمل

Liberty's problems bedevil a Church geared for combat

From Roger Boyes
Gdansk

IT IS God who has won in Eastern Europe, the Pope recently told pilgrims, depicting the downfall of communism as a surrender to the spirit.

This weekend the Pope flies to Czechoslovakia, on his first European pilgrimage to a country other than his Polish homeland, to claim the spoils of this victory. Thousands of Catholics in Central Europe are already on the move, sleeping under hedgerows and waiting for the Polish Pope.

But how complete is the victory of the Church? One can see that in East Germany, at the heart of Hungarian Christendom.

East Germany, on the banks of the grey Danube, was the seat of King Stephen who completed the conversion of pagan Hungary to Christianity and was made a saint.

Inside the neo-Classical cathedral there is the usual masonry in his honour — and a space reserved for the remains of Cardinal Mindszenty, that potent symbol of Church resistance to communism.

Outside, the square once named after the Heroes of 1919 — the Communists of Bela Kun — has been renamed Mindszenty Square.

The Church has won back its rights. Religious classes are flourishing, con-

gregations can leave barracks to go to church, prisoners can celebrate Mass. The state no longer interferes in the life of dioceses. The Pope appoints the bishops, the bishops appoint the priests.

Everywhere there is a re-ordering within the Church. Staggered organizations designed to split the Church — like the Polish bishops in Czechoslovakia — are withering away, and in all those Church hierarchies which accommodated too easily to the communist regimes (such as the Romanian Orthodox Church) purges are under way.

In Hungary, only one suspect-bishop (the Bishop of Győr) stays in place. He was known as the Opera Priest, because of his frequent appearances at official banquets. "But soon," a priest explains in the grounds of the Esztergom Theological College, "the whole idea of regime priests will be meaningless — without a tyrannical or atheistic regime, the old categories of moral collaboration will have disappeared. Priests are simply returning to their priestly work."

The Hungarian Church, as in Poland, wants to withdraw entirely from politics. Even the Protestant hierarchy in Hungary felt uncomfortable about Father Gabor Roszka, who stood for the Democratic Forum in his constituency-cum-parish. Both the Protestant and the Catholic Churches were deeply involved

in the 1989 revolution in Eastern Europe. It was a demonstration in support of the Hungarian pastor, the Rev. Laszlo Tokes, in Timisoara that sparked off the Romanian Christmas revolution.

The Protestant Church of East Germany, which sheltered the opposition there for years, has a cadre of political priests, one of whom, the Rev. Reiner Eppelman, has become the leader of the Democratic Awakening. It was unquestionably the three papal trips to Poland (the first in 1979) that gave Catholic priests civic courage and connected them with worker opposition in Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Baltic republics.

One incident from last year's Czechoslovak revolution stays firmly rooted in memory: in Litomerice in Bohemia, theology students asked permission to stage a demonstration. The communist authorities refused, but (in the mode of Schwab) said they would not use force.

The communists removed the loud-speakers from the square, the students promptly supplied their own from church stocks and set up the electronics in a shop. The police tried to raid the shop but the trainee priests formed a human cordon and the demonstration went ahead as planned.

Yet the Church is still a long way from its trumpeted victory in the East. At the

higher reaches of Vatican *Ostpolitik*, the strategists around Cardinal Agostino Casaroli are having to fight their punches. The Church's mission in Eastern Europe for the past four decades has been to liberate the captive nations through faith, through the practice of religion, under or above ground. Now, the liberation of Catholic Lithuania could topple President Gorbachov — on whose survival much of the Vatican's *Ostpolitik* depends.

Where does the Church stand on reform socialism? At the parish level, the message is coming through in a rather blurred way. For the young, there is no room for big-power politics in the crusade against communism.

The steepest gradient faced by the Church, though, is the secularization of Eastern Europe. The new freedoms allow the Church more room for evangelization. Every Saturday Polish television shows a charming guitar-strumming priest running play school; Masses from St. Peter's are shown regularly; and Polish churches cater for every politically repressed group.

When Mr John Gummer, Britain's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, arrived recently to discuss aid for Polish agriculture he turned naturally to the Catholic Church for advice: the priests rule firmly in the villages. But 40

years of socialist education cannot be easily erased. It is accepted as an automatic right by young women in Eastern Europe to terminate their pregnancies, to divorce quickly with only routine questions about the disposal of children and property. Abortion and divorce rates are extremely high.

In East Germany where there are about 80,000 abortions a year (as many as in the far larger female population of West Germany) there is concern that reunification will bring tougher rules. In Poland, homosexuals have just been given the right to their own associations and magazines. Strict censorship has been neutralized or abolished by the democratic revolution, but one side effect of that is a boom in pornography.

There is thus a risk that the opening to the West will flood the East not only with the vulgarities of the market place but also with a materialist and alien culture. A Solidarity deputy, on the Christian-nationalist wing, recently berated the West for including contraceptives in their aid shipments to Poland.

The Catholic Church, equipped for combat, does not know how to cope with these new freedoms. Now that East European governments are admitting to Aids victims, the churches have to work out a position: too often priests in Poland, Slovakia and Hungary are

talking of Aids as divine punishment for prostitution and homosexuals.

That jars with most urban dwellers who give generously to the Aids victims who can now be seen begging on the streets of Warsaw. The Church, quite simply, is looking out of touch.

"It is difficult to condemn materialist values in a shortage economy," explained a Hungarian theologian in Esztergom. "But we have to find a way." When the Church was at war with communism, a high premium was put on Church unity and internal discipline. Nowadays it is common to hear clergy criticize their hierarchy.

When the Polish Primate, Cardinal Józef Glemp, made insensitive remarks about Jews there was an audible gasp from younger priests who sympathize with Solidarity. The instruction to avoid politics are difficult for them to bear.

There are the urban priests, children of the Second Vatican Council, who want both to modernize and christianize Eastern Europe; that is pushing them into sympathy with new radical groupings.

On the other hand, there are the tough, not always elderly, priests in the countryside who see in the conquest of the Red Dragon a diminution of their power. These clerics are important supporters of the agrarian right.

Gorbachov slows pace of economic reform plan

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachov may have been persuaded by his advisers to slow down his plans for an all-out dash to a market economy which were outlined by Mr Leonid Abalkin, Deputy Prime Minister, a fortnight ago.

An official account of two recent meetings held to discuss the plans — which include establishing a stock exchange, a thorough overhaul of the pricing system and almost complete freedom for private enterprise — quoted Mr Gorbachov as recommending that the programme be introduced with extreme care and stage by stage.

The economic proposals, which have been published only in summary form, were discussed at two joint meetings of Mr Gorbachov's new advisory groups — his hand-picked Presidential Council and the Council of the Federation, comprising leaders of all the republics.

Unofficial reports of the first meeting said that there had been heated exchanges of views and that the positions of the "rapid reformers" and their opponents seemed irreconcilable. Now a report on

the second meeting, released by the President's press office and published in Soviet newspapers yesterday, says that agreement has been reached and suggests that the pace of reform will be slowed.

Mr Gorbachov was quoted as saying in his summing up: "We should not display dilatoriness or hesitation. But it is equally certain that we have to pass through a series of stages on our way to a regulated market economy and we must first formulate a reliable mechanism for protecting the population, especially its less well-off sections."

"In planning to accelerate economic reform, we should take into account the real situation in our society. The reform programme can only hope to succeed if it has the support of millions of Soviet people, and reflects their interests."

For decades Soviet people had been led to believe that their fortunes depended on the leadership who, he said, were blamed for everything — from the housing shortage to the absence of nails in the village shop. They had also absorbed attitudes of "levelling down", not showing initiative and living off the state.

If this were to change, the mechanism by which reform was introduced had to be carefully thought out, as a whole and in its individual elements. The views of economists, scholars, of managers, local administrators and workers had to be sought and taken into account first.

Such words are a far cry from Mr Gorbachov's earlier insistence that strong medicine would be needed urgently if the economy were to have any hope of recovery, and indicate that he may have heeded criticism from those who objected during the recent Congress of People's Deputies that five years of perestroika had achieved nothing, largely because the ground had been poorly prepared and the objectives insufficiently well thought out.

Earlier in the year, many members of the Soviet Union's economic reform lobby pointed to Polish economic reform, which resulted in a flourishing market and a drastic reduction in inflation.

It seems that Mr Gorbachov may now have come round to the view, propounded by some reformers, that public opinion is not prepared for the sacrifices that Polish-style "shock treatment" would involve and that serious social destabilization could follow any sudden introduction of market principles.



Sign of the times: Democracy has been a boon to the graffiti artists of Croatia, who with four left strokes of the spray can have added their own political comment to these election posters in Zagreb of Mr Franjo Tudjman, the leader of the right-wing Croatian Democratic Union. Yesterday the

authorities appealed for calm and restraint during Sunday's first free elections in more than half a century in Yugoslavia's second largest republic (Dessa Trevisan writes from Zagreb). They also dismissed fears aroused by some army generals that the military would interfere if the

ruling communists were to lose. Two weeks ago the Army indulged in what many saw as a little sabre-rattling by issuing a statement emphasizing that the Army would not permit anyone to drive a wedge between the Yugoslav "nations" or change frontiers that would defend the constitutional system.

Though a military takeover is regarded as unlikely the electoral commission in Croatia clearly had such fears in mind yesterday when it urged the electorate to choose without fear of the consequences. Meanwhile, an amnesty has been announced for 108 Yugoslav political prisoners.

Walesa threatens congress walkout

From Roger Boyes
Gdansk

AN ANGRY Mr Lech Walesa yesterday hit back at his critics in Solidarity and threatened to walk out of the union's second congress unless some of his most virulent enemies were excluded from the hall.

His outburst came a day before the union's leadership election and hinted at the bitter infighting accompanying its attempts to redefine its role in the post-communist era.

The central issue of Solidarity's future and its relationship to the Government in which it has the dominant role has thus been clouded by discussion over the personality of Mr Walesa.

"If you invite these people," a petulant Mr Walesa told the 487 delegates, referring to his critics, "I am leaving this congress. There is no way that I will sit down with these people."

In particular, he had in his sights Mr Andrzej Gwiazda and Mr Marian Jurczyk, two radical Solidarity leaders from 1980 who formed their own breakaway groups to protest over what they regard as Mr Walesa's autocratic style of leadership.

The mood of the congress has soured since it opened On Thursday evening Mr Jan Rulewski, an old rival of his, proposed that all formally elected members of the Solidarity leadership be allowed to attend as guests. This seemingly innocent gesture was supposed to remind Mr Walesa that the congress did not represent the whole movement.

The motion was defeated, but almost a quarter of the delegates voted for it — and that number more than doubled overnight when Mr Alojzy Pietrzyk, a Silesian activist and potential challenger to Mr Walesa in today's leadership election, resurrected the motion and won.

● Lithuania call: The congress yesterday approved a motion appealing to all signatories of the Helsinki Security and Co-operation Treaty to recognize the independence of Lithuania. "Europe should be a Europe of free nations," the motion said.

Berlin deputies approve swift unity

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin

THE East German parliament yesterday approved plans by Herr Lothar de Maizière, the Prime Minister, for swift German unity and a speedy conversion to a free market.

But the communist Party of Democratic Socialism, the largest opposition group in the Volkskammer, said it would oppose what it termed an "annexation" of East Germany on to the Federal Republic under the use of Article 23 of the West German Basic Law, the route favoured by both German governments to unity.

The communists also said that they would oppose Nato membership of a unified Germany. Later the party's deputies walked out of the assembly in protest after a right-wing MP compared the country's 40-year history with the Third Reich.

Herr Joachim Nowack, of the arch-conservative German Social Union, said that the party had failed to learn from its mistakes and that a single apology was not enough. "In that case a triple excuse from Goebbels would have sufficed to forget everything that happened in the Nazi era."

The remarks proved sensitive after this week's moves in Czechoslovakia to outlaw the communist party there led the East German communists to fear a similar campaign.

Germany and EC union dominate foreign ministers' Dublin agenda

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

THE Lithuanian crisis and the Franco-German call for swifter European political union will dominate a meeting in Dublin today of EC foreign ministers.

It was originally called to prepare for next week's summit on German unity and examine ways of hindering the emergent democracies in East Europe more closely to the Community.

Despite strong support for Lithuania's aspirations among the Twelve, the foreign ministers are likely to be cautious in their assessment of the crisis and will urge both sides to negotiate. They are unlikely to offer any practical help to the Lithuanians to overcome Moscow's energy blockade.

A more contentious issue among the Twelve is the call by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and President Mitterrand, of France for immediate preparations for an inter-governmental conference on political union.

The British Government's dismissive reaction is a signal that once again it could find itself alone in trying to slow down the pace of European integration, while the other 11 countries are likely to welcome it, as well as the call for intensified preparations for economic and monetary union.

M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, and his West German opposite number, Herr Hans-Dietrich

Genscher, will present their ideas at the informal Dublin meeting in a demonstration that the Franco-German axis remains as strong as ever and is still the driving force for greater EC integration.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will find little sympathy for any suggestion that the EC should pause to take stock first of German unity and the changes in East Europe.

Today's meeting comes a week before the summit on German unity, which itself is rapidly assuming broader dimensions, and will concentrate as much on the future shape of the Community as on the way of integrating East Germany into the EC.

The foreign ministers will consider two papers drawn up



Mr Hurd: Expected to find himself isolated yet again

by the European Commission: one on the Community's relations with East Europe, and the other on the timetable of German reunification and its effects on the EC.

Last week the Commission approved a document on relations with East Europe, which proposed much closer association agreements, more money, a range of political and Western assistance to help the economic changes. In return it demanded of the former Soviet bloc countries irreversible commitment to a market economy, democratic pluralism and political reform.

However, Brussels has insisted that it is not promising future membership of the EC, although not ruling this out. Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have all declared that EC membership is their ultimate aim.

German reunification is a more pressing issue. The Commission paper foresees full East German integration by 1993, and says this presents a "major challenge" for both the EC and German authorities but also considerable opportunities for new investment, growth and contracts which could boost total growth in the EC by up to 0.5 per cent.

In the proposed three-phase scenario, the paper sees East Germany introducing legislation to fit into the Community even before formal unification

US trade talks to go ahead

Paris

THE United States and Soviet Union will go ahead with a new round of trade talks here next week despite threats from Washington of retaliation after Moscow cut Lithuania's oil supplies, US and Soviet diplomats said yesterday.

The superpowers are trying to reach a trade accord that is needed before the Americans can grant the Soviet Union most-favoured nation (MFN) trade status. The Kremlin is hoping that Washington will go ahead and grant MFN status at the summit on May 30-June 3 in the United States.

The status would greatly reduce US duties on Soviet imports, and could open the door to American credits: moves that could boost two-way trade, valued at \$4.9 billion (£3 billion) last year.

US officials said this week that a trade accord could be wrapped up at the fourth round of talks, set for next Tuesday to Thursday in Paris.

A Soviet Embassy diplomat said that Moscow's delegation was still scheduled to arrive next week. (Reuter)

Hungarian anger as Springer swallows newspapers

By Gabriel Rosay

HUNGARY'S main political parties, public bodies, leading journalists and the Newspaper Publishers' Association have rounded on the West German Axel Springer media concern, accusing it of acquiring a large slice of the Hungarian press in an "unseemly and highly questionable coup".

They questioned the legality of the way in which Axel Springer Budapest Ltd, the Hungarian subsidiary of the West German media concern, bought a string of provincial dailies earlier this month. And they hinted that as soon as the new centre-right government was in office, these "grabs" would be challenged in court.

In an apparently well-orchestrated action, the editorial

staff of formerly communist party-controlled dailies handed in their resignations to the owner-publisher, the Hungarian Socialist Party, which is the communist's legal successor, and formed limited liability companies at the beginning of this month.

A day later the papers — using the same masthead with the addition of the word "New" under the same editorial facilities and printing presses — reappeared on the streets. The only notable change was the insertion: "Responsible publisher — the managing editor of the Axel Springer Budapest Limited Company."

The toothless Hungarian Socialist Party, unable to defend from Springer the dailies

and journals it inherited from the communists, has protested against what it described as "this illegal snatching".

The Hungarian arm of Springer is reported to be negotiating with the editorial staff of another five formerly communist-controlled dailies and several weeklies.

The Hungarian Socialist Party has inherited 19 provincial dailies and the fate of the remaining ones will depend on the legal moves in court.

Mr Sandor Orban, the secretary-general of the Hungarian Newspaper Publishers' Association, said: "Our association is for the privatization (of the press) but against the frittering away of assets. We do not accept that newspapers and publishing houses should be bought up in

a risible fashion for symbolic sums..."

Mr Jozsef Bayer, the managing director of Axel Springer Budapest, and Herr Eckhart Bollmann, of the West German parent company, said at a press conference in Budapest that the company "had done nothing but establish a number of new newspapers" in the provinces.

The influential political weekly *Magyarorszag* said: "The sharks of the international media have been circling for some time our national waters and they swallow up from time to time smaller and bigger fishes. Some are swallowed whole, others only in part. And the little fishes do not even notice that they have struck a bad bargain."



A Neues Deutschland cartoon reprinted in Hungary



Susan is just like any other 10 year old...

but she lives under the shadow of diabetes.

1 person in every 100 in the UK lives under this shadow. Diabetes can cause blindness, kidney trouble, amputation, and other complications.

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Faiths that should fight

Clifford Longley

Ask a typical Anglican churchman about disestablishment of the Church of England and he will be quick on the draw with a well-rehearsed knock-down argument: "People want things the way they are."

While few people in Britain now go to church, the majority seem to think religion is still quite a good thing, and that to have a church upheld and protected by law is to make a constitutional statement in favour of religion on behalf of society and the state.

Disestablishment is therefore conceived as anti-religious. There is also a general state of neurotic national guilt about the neglect, or rejection, of religion; maintaining an established church helps to soften the sting.

It indicates that somewhere in us still lurks a respect for higher things, even if we want no part in them ourselves, particularly on Sundays. It is nevertheless comforting to pass a church and to feel in some remote way that its air of obscure goodness rubs off on us and that it exists because we condescend to let it do so.

A different argument is often heard from the unestablished religions. The Free churches such as the Methodists and Baptists, the Roman Catholics and non-Christian communities such as the Jews all long ago accepted the establishment of the Church of England with varying degrees of enthusiasm or acquiescence.

This sentiment springs from a deep neurosis of insecurity. At various times, the Free churches, the Catholics and the Jews have all experienced some hostility. The Free churches have suffered explicit exclusion and humiliation, manifested sometimes as rampant religious snobbery, at other times as a thousand tiny pin-pricks of condescension, rejection and discrimination.

Catholicism was persecuted almost out of sight until Irish reinforcements arrived in the last century and deep in the psyche of the average middle-ranking Catholic churchman is still the shadow of a fear that the Gordon Riots might start again tomorrow if he does not watch his step. Most British Jews have also experienced their share of persecution, though not mostly at British hands. But subconscious fears have no great respect for nationality, and anti-Semitism is not unknown in Britain either.

All three groups display symptoms of an unhealthy and sycophantic gratitude to Anglican England. It is the gratitude of the victim to the bully after he stops his bullying. A condition of being excused further bullying is to have to deny that it ever happened. In the case of religion, the formula to be consented to is that England has always been a remarkably tolerant society, unlike those foreign blighters everywhere else.

MATTHEW PARRIS

These days, "theme" exhibitions are increasingly the vogue. In London, the Science Museum has a Lego exhibition — though too early to include Labour's next manifesto which Mr. Kinnock is constructing, now he has finished building Mr. Bryan Gould. The Victoria and Albert has "plastic" for its theme, though I understand that the new, caring face of the Conservative Party is not among the exhibits.

It is good that the hidebound philosophies of museums and galleries are being discarded. But scope remains for progress. To date, themes are dominated by heroes, villains and men on Clapham omnibuses: that is to say, most exhibitions feature the typical, the excellent, or the horrific.

But what about the dreary, the dismal and the inexcusable? What of the million hateful little things about our age which need explaining? I am saving up to sponsor an exhibition of my own. Its theme will be Awful. My exhibition will display and dissect every ghastly commonplace you have ever confronted and thought "who the hell do we have to thank for that?"

As you enter, the first room will be devoted to "Transport and Travel". An entire section will celebrate *Plastic Motorway Comes Through the Ages*. An expanded working model of a parking meter will vie for attention with a computer game flashing pictures of single and double yellow lines and those little tin signs which explain when you can and cannot park on alternate Tuesdays, followed by a quiz to test comprehension.

Across the room, an audio-visual display recreates moments from the very first package tour. Did you know this was by rail with Thomas Cook in the 1860s, all the way from Leicester to Loughborough? The room is dedicated to the millionth Sharon to check in at the hundredth hotel named *Sol y Mar* on the Costa Brava.

Families visiting the exhibition will sample the sights, sounds and smells of a bottom-of-the-range bed and breakfast establishment at Cleethorpes, while (discreetly behind a screen) adults only experience the more grisly episodes of a Club 18-30 holiday in Greece.

Have not the English even stopped burning effigies of the Pope on November 5 — almost?

None of this is the present Church of England's fault, for the modern Anglican churchman is full of ecumenical love without even a trace of that "effortless Anglican superiority" which marked his predecessors. To be approved of ecumenically by him and his official state church is to be allowed to bask in legitimacy.

The non-established religions would be much more honest, and much more psychologically healthy, if they had the courage to admit openly that the establishment of the Church of England offends them deeply, and is quite incompatible with the basic principles of parliamentary democracy. It would be as healthy for the Church of England to have to face the accusation of past bullying, then ecumenism would begin to mean something real. The Church of England would begin to see which of its present attitudes are still insufferable, and which part of its present identity is still being maintained at the expense of other people's rights and pride.

The real governing body of the Church of England is not the General Synod but the Crown in Parliament. Parliament is supposed to represent all the people, of every persuasion and none. The Queen is head of state of Anglicans and non-Anglicans alike. Non-Anglicans actually make up the majority of the citizens of the United Kingdom. Though few of them recognize the fact, they are still not full citizens, for the Crown and Parliament have functions, relating to the Church of England, which do not and cannot concern them. These areas are marked: "Keep off, Anglicans only."

It would be possible for all these non-Anglicans to assert their democratic constitutional rights by seizing the reins in Parliament, to insist that it was their Parliament too and was no longer going to be used by one group to give special status to its own sectarian purposes. But that would be to cross an emotional and intellectual picket line, to say things which, for various unhealthy reasons, cannot be said, no matter how true and obvious they may be. At the back of their minds is the secret fear that the exclusion and bullying could start again.

By this feature of the constitution, non-Anglicans are, in effect, rendered foreigners in their own country, implicitly told they do not quite fully belong. When they were timidly grateful to be allowed to belong at all, they were not going to put their precarious safety in jeopardy by complaining. But it is coming to the point when they must claim back their full citizenship; and it will not be right or good for the Church of England to stand in their way.

A second room is devoted to "Consumer Nightmares". Pride of place here will go to the "Packaging" section. Videos of President Reagan (did you see this, at Reykjavik?) trying to open a packet of nuts follow a serious exposition of the hermetic sealing process and an explanation of how British Rail Travellers' Fare plastic tea-stirrers are made and why they don't work.

This whole room is dominated by a giant polystyrene reproduction of the first Wimpy Bar tomato ketchup dispenser made in plastic to look like a tomato. Beside it, a fungo-bacteriological expert answers questions on the clotting process by which unused ketchup congeals around the nozzle. A brochure, *Eating Out in South London*, is available at the door.

The "Political Room" will be given over to "Firsts". Who was the first politician to comb his hair in public? Here you would learn. Donning headphones, visitors can relive the parliamentary moment when Mrs Thatcher first said "poll tax" by mistake.

Decorating the walls are scenes from the episode when Barbara Castle's wig got hooked on a piece of trailing cable when (as Minister of Pensions) she pursued the photo-opportunities inherent in picking her way through the smouldering rubble of an old people's home gutted by fire. The room would be devoted not to the triumphs or atrocities of political history, but to the thousand little nastinesses in its margins.

Then there would be "Arts and Entertainment", for which a whole wing would be needed. There is no space, here, to detail the exhibits — the "workshop" on canned laughter, the video *Most Embarrassing Scenes Caused by Faulty Auto-Cue*, the study of the birth and evolution of disc jockeys talking over the best parts of records, the games show testing visitors' knowledge about games shows, the history of the Eurovision Song Contest... and many more.

Blueprints are at an advanced stage. And I am now able to make two further announcements. Stoke-on-Trent will host the exhibition, Stork Margarine — and I — will sponsor it.

The task now is convincing Peking

Many lessons can be learnt from the events which culminated in the Government's victory with a majority of almost 100 votes at the end of the debate on the Hong Kong passport Bill on Thursday.

The debate enjoyed that extra edge which comes only when party lines are blurred and the outcome of the vote is thought to be in some doubt. But Labour's home affairs spokesman, Roy Hattersley, gave an extremely poor performance — not only devoid but entirely without indicating the policy which a Labour government would follow beyond granting Hong Kong a democracy without meaning in a Chinese province. Gerald Kaufman's speech, while equally devoid of content, was skilfully delivered but was too late to restore Labour's front-bench credibility. As a result, 59 Labour MPs defied their three-line whip, one voting with the Government, the rest lost in futile abstention or absence.

In contrast, the Home Secretary, David Waddington, showed a mastery of the intricate

immigration laws and was impressive in his advocacy of the Bill, leaving the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, to deal elegantly and persuasively with the difficult issues of Anglo-Chinese relations in the approach to 1997.

So the largest Conservative rebellion in the present Parliament (44 MPs voting against the Government and 43 others absent or abstaining) was no real threat to the Bill. The Opposition proved unable to take advantage of an open invitation to inflict what would have been the Government's biggest defeat since 1979. Even without the most effective work of the Government whips and lavish hospitality from the Hong Kong Government, the Government would probably have been saved by Labour's bungling.

The odds are that future hurdles will be surmounted and the Bill will be enacted in more or less its present form, although the maverick majority in the House of Lords may pose Mr Waddington some unwelcome problems.

The worst of the Government's

future difficulties will not be in Parliament but in Hong Kong and Peking. Much of the Conservative opposition to the Bill was centred on doubts over its impact on the Chinese government and its effectiveness in stemming the drain of key personnel from the colony.

So it was encouraging that Douglas Hurd vigorously defended the policy of realism in relations with China. Throughout the long negotiations which led to the Anglo-Chinese Joint Declaration, Peking held almost all the master cards. The British negotiators had little with which to bargain other than the value to China of a prosperous and successful Hong Kong and the damage to China's economy and humiliation of its leaders that would come from an economic collapse after 1997.

Moreover, if a collapse is precipitated before 1997, by what to Chinese eyes may appear to be a deliberate undermining of the colony by British actions, the future of Hong Kong will be bleak indeed. It would be seen not as a

Chinese failure but a British breach of faith. Few people in Britain understand that our concept of the freedom to move from place to place without government permission is extraordinary. Indeed, so inexplicable that most Chinese politicians and officials believe there is some hidden catch in it. They find it difficult to believe that our Government does not have the power simply to require Hong Kong citizens to stay put.

Certainly it must seem even more odd to the Chinese than to the House of Commons that the British government has decided to give away the travel documents we call passports to discourage the recipients from leaving the colony. Equally the efforts of the Foreign Office to persuade our European Community partners to offer the right of abode to Hong Kong Chinese must seem bizarre to Peking, especially in the absence of an offer of sanctuary to those of Indian descent who are the least likely to be welcomed in Hong Kong under Chinese rule.

Mr Hurd rightly suggested it

was time to put the tragic events of Tiananmen Square not out of mind but behind us in dealing with China. The Government's first task must now be to re-establish confidence in Peking that we genuinely wish to help secure the prosperity of Hong Kong and not asset-strip it of its best people before 1997. The potential problems of immigration will be minimized if that can be achieved despite the clamorousness of the Hong Kong Bill.

To integrationists like myself those problems relate overwhelmingly to the numbers and the willingness of the newcomers to accept the laws, standards and customs of the host society. The Chinese are not notably good integrationists where they constitute large communities, but in many ways they share similar values and ambitions to ourselves.

If the Bill becomes law and, as I fear, it leads to a new wave of immigration as much as 15 or 16 times that of the Ugandan Asians, its supporters and opponents will have much work to do to avoid my fears proving well-founded.

Help de Klerk defeat the hard men — on both sides

Conor Cruise O'Brien sees an easing of sanctions as essential if South Africa is to achieve peaceful change

Hopes of a relatively peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy in South Africa faded significantly this week. President de Klerk's ruling out of black majority rule is regrettable, but hardly surprising. In terms of Afrikaner values, he has made huge concessions by unconditionally releasing Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and, above all, by lifting the ban on the African National Congress.

By these bold moves, de Klerk hoped that Mandela would exercise a moderating influence over the ANC. This hope has been dashed. Mandela has proclaimed the continuation of the ANC's "war" against Pretoria and, of even greater significance, has used his great prestige to call for the maintenance of international sanctions, in their full rigour. For de Klerk and his political friends, the rock concert at Wembley Stadium on Monday must have been the last straw.

The only thing de Klerk has got by his bold moves — at least, the only one perceptible to white South Africa — is Mrs Thatcher's relaxation of British sanctions. In the circumstances, Mandela's visit to London without meeting her was not merely a snub to Mrs Thatcher, who has other things to worry about; it was also a snub to F.W. de Klerk, to whom such a snub is politically damaging. It makes him look a bit of a fool — "You let that man out, and see how he treats you!"

In substance, de Klerk's "no" to black-majority rule is not new. Although his style is vastly different from that of his predecessor, P.W. Botha, and his tactics are much bolder, de Klerk's political strategy for the future of South Africa has not yet been shown to be altogether incompatible with that of Botha, under whom de Klerk served so long.

Botha, too, used to talk — though grudgingly and ambiguously — about "ending apartheid", but he always qualified that by stressing the need for "minority rights". In Botha-speak, that became a euphemism for what

used to be called apartheid. De Klerk may, or may not, move well away from that, under the pressure of events, but he has not yet moved away from it definitively. On that basic issue, Botha would not dissent from the remarks by de Klerk's Cabinet colleague and principal adviser, Gerrit Viljoen — the guru of Afrikaner *verligtes* — in the interview (page 7) with *The Times* Diplomatic Correspondent, National Party leaders have changed their tactics, quite dramatically, but their political strategy is more continuous than their friends in the outside world and their domestic enemies assume.

If the strategy does change — to the acceptance of majority rule without major qualification — it will most likely be the result of political desperation. De Klerk has made their bold moves and got nothing in return (except from Mrs Thatcher). The violence continues; so (with the same exception) do the sanctions. The ANC, with Mandela released, appears just as hardline as it was without him; and of course much more visible, and triumphant in its visibility.

In these bleak circumstances, de Klerk and his friends have to ask themselves: "If things go on like this, what are the next elections going to do for us?" To which an interim answer is: "That depends on what the electorate will be, when the elections come round."

It is possible, therefore, that fear of again facing an all-white electorate which believes their policies have failed may induce the Nationalist leaders to go for broke, and accept non-racial elections on a common roll. That would involve an electoral pact, under which, in relevant constituencies, NP candidates would get black votes, by ANC directive. The Nationalist leaders, when extremely hard-pressed, as they will be, are likely to contemplate that line. Politicians facing an imminent threat of political extinction will contemplate any expedient, however desperate, that might ensure their survival. They will contemplate it, but



they are unlikely to be able to put it into effect. The limiting factor here is acquiescence of the security forces. These have gone along, often reluctantly, with the de Klerk-Viljoen line, which includes the essential code-word "minority rights", meaning that white power and privileges are to be left intact. If de Klerk, in negotiating with the ANC, seems to be abandoning those rights, the commanders of the police and army are likely to stop him. They have ways of doing this, well short of a coup. The

politically minded among them will have noted with satisfaction the postponement by the ANC of "talks about talks" after police killed a number of demonstrators (or rioters) at Sebokeng last month. Similar incidents could abort the negotiating process completely.

For these reasons, I rate the chances of successful negotiation as low, though not non-existent. The most likely prospect, I fear, is one of early breakdown of negotiations — assuming they ever get

started — continuing violence, continuing deterioration in the economy, and victory for Dr Treurnicht's Conservative party over the Nationalists in South Africa's next — all-white — elections.

All that seems probable, but it is not certain. It remains just possible that de Klerk, having gone so far, may decide to take the plunge, and even possible that he may be able to persuade the security forces to go along with him and acquiesce in the holding of genuinely non-racial elections. De Klerk is not as "anti-apartheid" as he is sometimes made to sound, but he remains the best hope, though a slender one, for the ending of apartheid with the assent of most of the Afrikaner community.

De Klerk may opt for radical change only when he gets desperate; to that extent, there is validity in the ANC's hard line. But if he decides eventually to make a great break, and if that break is to be effective, he needs to retain some credibility in his own community, over a long and difficult lead time. Thus there seems to be a need for both carrot and stick. So far, it has been almost all stick, the sole carrot being that provided by Mrs Thatcher.

It is de Klerk, rather than Mandela, who needs international help, in the form of encouragement to survive and go further. The international adulation of Nelson Mandela is not doing South Africa, or Mandela himself, any good. Mandela appears now as a tragic figure, more of a prisoner, spiritually, than when in prison. Mandela deeply desires to end the civil war of "black on black", as in Natal, but has had to bow to an ANC collective leadership determined to wage that war. That was the meaning of the cancellation of his meeting with the Zulu leader, Chief Buthelezi. Unless Mandela can reassure himself, he will remain the captive symbol of a movement over which he has no control. Release Mandela is once more an appropriate slogan.

There is very little that the outside world can do about all this, but on this particular issue Mrs Thatcher's political instincts have served her well. Britain's relaxation of sanctions may be de Klerk's lifeline.

No Englishman is an island

Norman Tebbit cannot resist ruffling feathers, even in the refined pages of *The Field*. Asked to write in the latest issue on "What it means to be British", he plunges on about "waves of newcomers intent on importing their nationality to our nation". In the piece published yesterday in the wake of his failed Hong Kong rebellion — Tebbit complains that Britain's "sense of insularity and nationality has been bruised by large waves of immigrants resistant to absorption". He derides those who use "insularity" as a term of abuse, insisting that "the blessing of insularity has long protected us against rabid dogs and dictators alike". But the worst of his ire is reserved not for the Hong Kong Chinese but for the Germans. The Bundesbank, he says, is no more than a "monetary successor to the Panzer". Given the same brief, the other undeclared pretender to the Tory throne is more tactful, or perhaps just more tactical. Michael Heseltine offers as the essence of Britishness his passions for tree-planting, bird-watching and fishing.

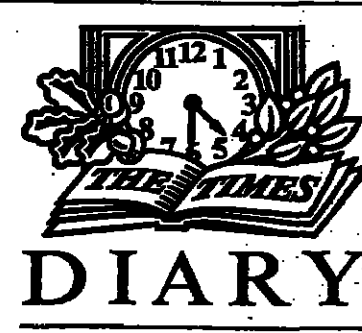
Spectator sport

Tebbit's recent appointment to the board of *The Spectator* must make for interesting meetings of that august body. Its chairman, Algy Cluff, is a trustee of the Anglo Hong Kong Trust, formed "to preserve the special relationship that has existed for 150 years between the UK and Hong Kong" — an objective which must surely in-

clude such confidence-building measures as offering Hong Kongers as many British passports as possible. Tebbit's presence on the board has already precipitated one furious row which led to Ludovic Kennedy resigning in horror. Kennedy said yesterday: "I couldn't see what place a crude political activist like Norman Tebbit had on the board of a high-class magazine". Charles Moore, the previous editor, took the view that all Hong Kong citizens should be given right of residence in Britain. The Government's pusillanimity, as he saw it, is widely believed to have contributed to his decision not to seek a Tory seat at the next election. Dominic Lawson, the new editor, declined yesterday to be drawn on how such conflicting views on his board will be resolved in the pages of the magazine. Next week's editorial will be perused with even more interest than usual.

Running down

Politicians who once clamped for the publicity guaranteed by half killing themselves in the London Marathon are either getting old or running out of steam. Only five are expected to compete tomorrow, down from eight last year. The absentees are blaming overwork. Doug Henderson, the Labour trade spokesman, has his eye on the existing parliamentary course record, set by our own Matthew Parris when an MP in 1985, of 2 hours 32min 57sec. Henderson has been running 20 miles a day before going off to the House and says he does his most profound thinking while pounding along. Labour's Alan Michael and Den-



nis Canavan will be there, as will the Scottish poll tax rebel, Dick Douglas. The persistent Tory MP Gary Waller will be trying to get below four hours at his eighth attempt. But he hasn't a chance, says his less than loyal secretary. "He never does any training."

Shell-shocked

After the trauma of handling press inquiries at the Department of the Environment while it was giving birth to the poll tax, a move to Trade and Industry ought to have offered Jean Caines the prospect of a quieter life. But the Iraqi gun saga has put paid to that. The Big Bertha row erupted only days before she moved in as its director of information, and she has been working round the clock ever since. Seasoned observers recall a similar situation in 1975, when, within days of Neville Gaffin taking the same job at the DTI, the Court Line tour company crashed, leaving hundreds of British families stranded abroad. Peter Shore, then Trade Secretary, interrupted his own holiday to deal with the crisis. Gaffin was expected to show similar devotion to duty,

and slept in the office for 10 nights until the drama was over. The similarities do not end there. Gaffin and Caines are now man and wife.

Arts brawl

While their lordships were yesterday debating the future of the Arts Council, the hunt is on for a new secretary-general to succeed Lake Rittner. Front-runners for the job — which will be advertised next week — are his deputy, Anthony Everett, and Tim Mason, director of the Scottish Arts Council, recently appointed to oversee the controversial new system of regional arts funding which occasioned Rittner's resignation. Others in the frame include Colin Tweedy, who succeeded Rittner at the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts; Christopher Gordon, director of the soon-to-be-defunct Council of Regional Arts Associations; Peter Longman, one-time Arts Council *apparatchik* who, after six years as secretary of the Museums and Galleries Commission, could be tempted back by a bigger pay packet; and Professor Christopher Frayling of the Royal College of Art. As so often, it might just be the outsider who is worth backing. Frayling is already chairman of the Arts Council's visual arts panel and is said to get on well with Peter Palumbo, the council's chairman. Rittner did not get on with Palumbo at all.

Two of a kind?

The most unlikely people meet in the most unpromising places. John Smith, Labour's shadow chan-

cellor, has built much of his considerable parliamentary reputation in recent years attacking the "voodoo economics" of Professor Sir Alan Walters. Mrs Thatcher's former adviser — his invoice reaching its height when Nigel Lawson resigned last October. Until this week, however, Smith had never met the man he has spent so much time abusing. Yet on the last day of his visit to Washington, they found themselves at adjacent tables in one of the town's smartest restaurants. Says Smith: "We didn't discuss economics; we just exchanged pleasantries." Labour is clearly moving closer and closer to free-market economics.

Michael Grade faces internal rebellion at Channel 4 over plans to uproot operations from central London and move offices to a riverside headquarters at Hammersmith. The scheme is the favourite of three confidential options being considered by the board but is the least popular with Channel 4 staff. One says: "They have tried to buy support for the Hammersmith proposal by offering a free bus service to and from the nearest tube station. But it's not on: if they go ahead, a lot of people will leave." The company must quit its present Charlotte Street headquarters by January 1993. Staff prefer the two central London alternatives. St John's Square, Clerkenwell, and the old, Smithfield Market site. Much more convenient for long media lunches. ● *Sports Diary* see art page 42



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INEXTRICABLE EXTRADITION

The meeting of the British and Irish Prime Ministers yesterday produced no new solutions to the problem which is burning beneath most British and many Irish fingers: extradition. At least there were no spectacular rows either.

Mr Charles Haughey is not entitled to a *carte blanche* to ignore this issue. But as long as he continues to talk boloney about British intransigence, a tacit understanding to set extradition aside temporarily may be best.

Underlying the extradition debate is a constitutional conundrum. The integrity of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill once remarked, was unaltered by the cataclysm of a war which altered the map of Europe. Significant changes can thus be masked from view. Not only has the Irish Supreme Court handed down landmark rulings in the two test cases of Finucane and Carron over the past six weeks, which appear to reverse the progress which has been made between the Republic and Britain on extradition since the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed five years ago. It also, on March 1, issued a new doctrine on Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution.

The Articles had hitherto been held either to express a wish that Ireland should be united or, alternatively, a binding obligation on governments to bring it about. The court ruled in favour of the latter view, but denied that this invalidated the Irish Government's signing of the Agreement, which gave *de facto* recognition to the British presence in the North. Despite the Agreement, the court now maintains, the North is already *de jure* part of the Republic.

The Supreme Court's judgment is a reminder that Articles 2 and 3 are useless as a guide to Irish policy. No Irish government will use force to meet the obligation placed on it by the Constitution. Yet almost any compromise can be regarded by the political opposition as a dereliction of duty. In the words of one Irish lawyer: "If the Northern conflict is ever to be resolved on any condition short of a complete Unionist surrender, there will have to be dilution of the pure milk of the Constitution."

The IRA needs no help from the Irish Supreme Court to justify killing people. Its campaign of violence would be murder just the same if Articles 2 and 3 had never been written. But the continuance of such obvious discrepancies between legal and political reality are hardly conducive to respect for the law.

A provisional solution has long been to hand in the form of a recommendation of the 1967

all-party committee of the Irish Senate. This redrafted Articles 2 and 3 to make it clear that unification was a wish of the Irish people. However, the present ruling party, Fianna Fail, has never wished to amend the Constitution. The opposition, Fine Gael, and the smaller parties are committed in principle to amendment. But their record of tabling such amendments is poor.

British governments have little leverage on Irish constitutional matters. To threaten to suspend the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 would ensure that, if the bluff were called, the Irish parties disposed to support a constitutional amendment would then be paralysed. They could not be seen to assist a British Government that tore up the one legal instrument which is accepted by both governments and has, despite its shortcomings, given hope to the Republican minority without depriving the Unionist majority of its veto. London needs Dublin more than vice versa.

Britain points to the mental block which the Constitution presents to almost any form of reconciliation in Northern Ireland or to any negotiation which involves the Republic. Any political progress in the North has the odds further stacked against it under the Supreme Court's latest judgments. Unionists have now added to their shopping list of conditions for dialogue the reversal of this latest interpretation of Ireland's constitutional claim to the North. Dialogue was anyway unlikely, but here the Unionists do have cause for complaint.

These theoretical questions are inextricable from the practical obstacles which the running sore of extradition presents to the defeat of the Provisional IRA. Mr Haughey deserves to be given time to demonstrate that the Irish law on extradition, recast three years ago, can deliver terrorist suspects to justice.

No doubt there will be further depressing setbacks on extradition before the tide begins to turn. But the political momentum which has been lost during recent weeks must somehow be regained. Some comfort has been provided by hints this week from the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr Gerry Collins, that Dublin would be glad to resume talks about resuscitating the Northern Irish assembly. By eschewing the opportunity to attack Mr Haughey yesterday over extradition, Mrs Thatcher proved that she is shrewd enough to seize on this nugget of hope buried in the granite of despair. Her gesture should not be ignored in Dublin.

IT TOOK A RIOT

Every extra day spent by the rioting prisoners on the roof of Strangeways jail should be an additional day of shame for the Home Office. Yet the damage to the public purse — £100,000 a day for policing, £80 million to rebuild the prison — is as high as the cost to public confidence in the penal system.

The British penal system has shown itself unable to prevent a riot in the first place and slow to regain control thereafter. This renders hollow the claim that only in the public sector can order be maintained. The public sector is incapable of controlling its prisons. The reasons are clear: deplorable conditions, and prison officers who are as concerned with their overtime payments as they are for the welfare of those they are supposed to guard.

The siege at Strangeways must be ended immediately and by force if necessary, as we have argued already. What can be done about the underlying causes and consequent costs of the loss of control? The conditions must be brought nearer to the standard now prevailing in most penal establishments in the rest of Europe. The Victorian jails may not have been inhumane when first built, now that they house two or three prisoners in cells designed for one, they have become so.

But there is a better reason for getting rid of them. Many are buildings of great architectural interest on valuable sites close to city centres. Sell, for instance, Pentonville or Wormwood Scrubs and a developer could divide them into flats or "lofts" brimming with industrial chic. The money could be used to build bigger and more civilized prisons on cheaper land.

There is little doubt that the private sector on its own could accomplish this task more quickly than the Home Office. The present £1 billion prison building programme was initiated

by Lord Whitelaw, the last Home Secretary but two. In more than eight years since then, eight new prisons have been built. Sixteen more are still only at the planning or construction stage.

If private companies are to build the prisons for themselves, might they not also run them more efficiently? A private operator would be aghast at the idea of allowing its prisoners to wreak £80 million worth of damage. Should damage occur, at least insurers rather than taxpayers would pick up the tab. In America, private prison management has saved money, reduced violence and improved conditions.

Privatization should also improve the management of prison officers. These days, no private industry would tolerate the restrictive practices of prison officers, who are monopoly suppliers of skills to a monopoly buyer and who showed their belligerence in last year's industrial dispute. Each private prison would agree its own conditions of employment in negotiation with its own officers.

Standards of care would have to be maintained. Prison officers would still be expected to undergo professional training. The prisons would be regulated by the Home Office, through such existing mechanisms as boards of visitors and the inspectorate.

If the Government fears taking so radical a step, it could start with a smaller one. There has long been an argument for separating remand prisoners from those who have been convicted. Those on remand are still innocent; they are in prison not to be punished but to be kept under strict supervision until their trial. Locking them up with convicted criminals is not only unfair but unwise. Farning them out to secure private-sector remand centres would make judicial as well as penal sense.

TRUE BRIT OR NOT TRUE BRIT

Many Asians in Britain fail the "cricket test", according to Mr Norman Tebbit this week. "Which side do they cheer for?" he demands in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times* which must have confused a number of its readers. The test is apparently one of cultural identity — that which makes one feel at home in one's own country.

One knows what he means, of course. There was a time, more than 40 years ago, when a day at Lord's was deeply reassuring. Whether England won or lost — usually the latter — the rippling applause for a glance past fine leg or the murmur of a companionable hush was the sound of a nation at peace with itself in midsummer. There might be an occasional visitor from the dominions, cheering Bradman to his first hundred. But such a flicker of dissent in that homogeneous gathering was brief.

The shouts and rattling tin cans in the stands today not only suggest a new approach to applause but also reflect wider divisions in national loyalties. It is now the West Indian bowlers or Indian batsmen who receive (and often deserve) the loudest cheers as they run through the English middle order batting, or smite a home-grown spinner past mid-off.

Whether that it is a good thing or not is a personal judgement. Our cricket grounds are much livelier and as long as the newcomers rattle their Coke cans for the sound it makes (as opposed to huddling them at people down below) they cannot be said to be doing any harm.

Nor is this division of loyalties novel. A number of our more illustrious monarchs, from William the Conqueror through William

III and George I (who could hardly speak English) would have failed the cricket test. Whether the Tudors (Welsh) or the Stuarts (Scotts) would have cried "On, on you noblest English!" from the nursery end is a moot point. Mary Tudor was half-Scots.

There are indeed Welsh or Scottish rugby crowds who might on a cold damp January afternoon, cherish private hopes that the French might win at Twickenham — thus furthering their own side's championship ambitions. If we cannot trust the London Welsh to support England in these circumstances, it is surely unreasonable to expect loyalty from a cricket-mad grocer who has just arrived from Gujarat and sees his former countrymen triumphing at the crease.

The idea of an England cricket XI is now equally confused. Of those on the recent tour to the West Indies, two come from South Africa, one from Jamaica, one from Dominica and one from Barbados, while another, Nasser Hussain, was born in India.

And who is the man for whom the selectors lick their lips? The young Worcestershire batsman Graeme Hick, from Zimbabwe. But we suppose this does not answer Mr Tebbit's point, which is similar to that made in less self-conscious times by Gilbert and Sullivan:

*For he might have been a Russian
Or a French or Turk or Prussian
Or perhaps an Italian!
But in spite of all temptations
To belong to other nations
He remains an Englishman*

Now, will it not raise the rafters in the Long Room when Messrs Patel start singing that at Lord's?

Breaking away from Moscow's hold

From Dr Maskhad Dzhususov

Sir, Mikhail Gorbachev is not "re-creating nationalist intellectuals as potential leaders of a new specifically Russian populist front", as stated in your editorial ("Brinkmanship in Moscow", April 12). Until now he has been trying to stick to the "centre", giving preference neither to radicals, who are ready to plunge themselves thoughtlessly into the abyss of reform, nor to the conservative flank of the Communist Party, standing up for their positions.

Gorbachev's credo does not imply orientation towards national elements or movements, Russian or otherwise. He has always adhered to the principle of consolidation, believing that it is unacceptable to be led by people defending group or nationalist interests. This does not mean that he is unaware of the fact that most of the nations populating the Soviet Union have their own specific problems crying out for solution. The situation in a number of regions is almost out of control, but solutions should still be based on consensus, taking into account the interests of the entire union.

If this does not happen, national egoism may lead to crises (as in Lithuania), or simply reduce to naught the efforts of the presidential system to solve problems constructively. The Presidential Council has other members besides the eminent defender of the Russian people's interests you highlighted, writer Valentin Rasputin. Among them, for instance, is another writer, Chinghiz Aitmatov, who is actively campaigning for a solution to the problems facing the Kirghiz people.

The assertion that Gorbachev is recruiting Russian nationalists as potential leaders of a Russian populist front is, at best, illogical. Yours faithfully, MASKHAD DZHUSUSOV (Senior Researcher), Institute of Sociology, USSR Academy of Sciences, 14 Leninskiy Prospekt, 117901 Moscow, USSR. April 19.

From Mr Wojtek Szatkowski
Sir, It is ironic that President Gorbachev has carried out his threats to use economic coercion against Lithuania just a few days after the Soviet Union's admission of responsibility for the mass murder of Polish officers at Katyn in 1940 (report, April 13).

The USSR's annexation of independent Lithuania in 1940 was made possible by the secret protocols of the September 28, 1939, Soviet-German boundary and friendship treaty. The Katyn massacre — part of a plan to

destroy the Polish educated and professional classes — was one of the ways in which Stalin implemented a secret provision to counter "Polish agitation".

President Gorbachev's latest display of determination to bully Lithuania into submission demonstrates that there is as yet no regret in the Kremlin at some of the other clauses of the 1939 treaty with Nazi Germany, and that the heirs of Stalin, while selectively denouncing Stalinism, show little willingness to admit the spuriousness of their title to the ill-gotten territorial proceeds of Stalin's collusion with Hitler.

Yours faithfully, WOJTEK SZATKOWSKI, 36 Roland Gardens, South Kensington, SW7. April 19.

From Mr David Damant
Sir, Current discussions on Lithuania seldom concentrate on the fact that President Gorbachev has to draw the line somewhere if the risks of a disastrous political and economic fragmentation of the Soviet Union are to be reduced; and drawing the line at Lithuania is a reasonable decision.

Indeed a long drawn-out and well-publicised crisis for Lithuania might serve his purposes rather well in dealings with other nationalist eruptions.

The somewhat self-satisfied confidence manifested by the Lithuanian leadership shows no realisation of the situation. That may be understandable, but the West would be correct in treating Lithuania as no more than a pawn in a larger game in which Lithuania itself will suffer if things go wrong.

Yours faithfully, DAVID DAMANT, 12 Agar Street, WC2. April 19.

From Mr K. W. Mieszkis
Sir, The USSR will not suddenly collapse because the Baltic states are trying to return to the independence which they enjoyed before the last war. However, considerable difficulties for Soviet Russia may result from the inability of the Soviet leaders, including Mr Gorbachev, to persuade themselves and the Baltic states that it is in everybody's interest to replace the present out-of-date relationship by an up-to-date relationship.

This is difficult, to put it mildly, with Russian tanks in Lithuanian towns and the menacing clouds of economic sanctions. Yours sincerely, K. W. MIESZKIS, 84 Hereford Road, Monmouth, Gwent.

Poll tax disquiet

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby, CH

Sir, I well remember the passive resistance following the Education Act 1903 ("Protest that hit the Tories", April 14). My father was one of them, and so were many others from the Nonconformist chapels in my home town in Derbyshire. I have a photograph of a hay cart full of them, hailing passers-by as they made slow progress to the magistrates' court.

My boyhood, right up to leaving home 10 years afterwards, was disturbed by the annual visit of the police to serve the summons on my father. For weeks each year home life was embittered by the domestic argument about the threat of his 14 days in prison for refusal to pay.

Unlike the poll tax, this resistance was not on the grounds of being "unfair", or "unjust", or "inability to pay". In 1903 it was a moral issue, a deeply-held conscientious objection to an education rate levied to fund the maintenance of Church schools. This went far deeper than anything I have heard against the poll tax.

Yours faithfully, HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY, House of Lords. April 16.

Gerhardie's 'block'

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Dr Stuttaford's comments on the great novelist William Gerhardie (Medical Briefing, April 19) are quite distasteful. Those of us who knew William Gerhardie well for very many years knew that he wasn't the slightest bit schizophrenic. There were deep reasons for his literary block, but they certainly weren't schizoid.

To describe him as miserly, fearful of the world and surrounded by mounds of old newspapers is ridiculous. He didn't like leaving his flat, but very much welcomed visits by people he thought would amuse him. He was poor, but certainly not miserly. He was not surrounded by old newspapers but by boxes containing the manuscript of his magnum opus, *This Present Breath*, which was never completed.

I haven't seen the work he left, though he read a good deal of it to me. I doubt whether Dr Stuttaford has seen it either, yet he describes it as "glibberish". Gerhardie's biographer, Dido Davies, has seen it and described it as a fascinating record of human consciousness.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL IVENS, 40 Doughty Street, WC1. April 19.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Confusion in our classrooms

From the Principal of Wakefield District College

Sir, The vote to confront the Government taken by the National Union of Teachers (report, April 18) will certainly raise the profile of the education profession, but not necessarily in a way which many teachers and lecturers might wish. Yet it is difficult to see how reason could replace the primacy of rhetoric when the teaching unions are many in number, concerned mainly with improving pay and conditions, and offer little consistency regarding tactics.

Surely now is the time for the establishment of a Professional Teaching Council, with individual teacher registration, which could provide a national and neutral forum about issues of common interest and, in so doing, raise the positive profile of the profession by emphasising its problems, but also its considerable successes. Yours faithfully, K. W. RUDDIMAN, Principal, Wakefield District College, Wakefield Centre, Margaret Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. April 19.

From Mr R. J. Wilson
Sir, Your leader (April 17) rightly suggests a constructive way out of the horrendous mess into which the National Curriculum (for all its potential benefits) is currently leading schools, particularly in the final two years of compulsory education.

An article in *The New York Times* (April 4) on radical changes made in Kentucky, removing the power of the State to dictate the syllabus, suggests the spirit which should inform Government thinking. Two quotations will make the point:

"The Kentucky lawmakers may well have signalled the eclipse of one of the most stifling educational trends of the last decade: the growing control by state education departments over how teachers and students spend their time."

"The Department may not tell teachers and principals in successful schools how to run their classes. 'Regulation is for schools that are failing, not for ones that are succeeding', said Jack Foster, secretary of the Governor's Education and Culture Cabinet."

Yours faithfully, ROBIN WILSON (Headmaster), Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon, Surrey. April 19.

Inside State schools

From Mr Ivor Chapman

Sir, Mr John Horn, president of the Secondary Head's Association, urges teachers in State schools to support their own system (report, April 7). He would like them to send their own children to State schools.

Why should they not do so? As deputy head of an outer London comprehensive school which maintains high standards in nearly every respect, I can see one main and fundamental deficiency in my own and every other State school: that is our inability to get rid of the child who is a thoroughly evil influence on others and a disrupter of their education.

Ninety-five per cent of our pupils are, at heart, willing, pleasant and cooperative. Disciplinary processes and sanctions concerned with the remaining 5 per cent consume an inordinate amount of the time of our most experienced teachers. A quick and efficient means of disposing of those whose presence vitiates the education of others is an urgent need.

When we can protect the normal ordinary pupil not only from the ill effects of immediate contact with the amoral few but also from

From Mrs S. R. Campion
Sir, No — not at all "unwillingly to school" (leader, April 11). Of course it is professionally satisfying to have greater budgetary control at school level. Neither my staff nor I are reluctant to make the most of our increased autonomy. Is it so exciting, though, when our budget, based as it is on average costs, will not fund this real school?

My quandary is this: as a well-established school we have many experienced and long-staying staff. They are a great asset. My budget however is based on average staff costs. The Government's teacher recruitment campaign seeks to bring back into the profession those who have for one reason or another given up teaching. These returners will be very expensive as they are at or near the top of the incremental scale.

My school cannot afford them. We have only one applicant for a PE vacancy at present: she's an experienced teacher and we can't afford her. There are ever fewer young recruits to teaching: almost every subject is now a shortage area. Where shall I find affordable teachers? Where will experienced teachers find jobs? Yours faithfully, SUSAN CAMPION (Headmistress), Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, Essex. April 11.

From Dr J. C. Gibbings
Sir, Mr D. Hatfield (April 16) does not mention a serious deficiency in the practice of the examining boards. I refer to the upgrading of results arising from re-marking.

In a school of which I am a governor we had seven pupils upgraded last year in just one A-level subject, directly as a result of our request for re-marking.

First, this shows the complete inadequacy of the "processing and checking" procedures for which Mr Hatfield claims considerable time is needed. Secondly, in our case the board took six weeks to re-mark these few scripts, by which time all seven of our sixth-formers had lost their places in tertiary education.

Yours sincerely, J. C. GIBBINGS, 7 Andrews Walk, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside. April 17.

the associated loss of his or her rightful share of teachers' time, we will be able to send our own children to our own schools with total confidence. Yours faithfully, IVOR CHAPMAN, 11 Woodside Park Avenue, Walthamstow, E17.

From Mr G. C. Roseblade
Sir, As someone who teaches in a State school but has a daughter in an independent school I regard Mr Horn's reasoning as faulty. Would he, I wonder, argue that people who work for a local authority housing department should choose to live only in council housing or that those who drive buses or trains should not run their own cars?

The point is, surely, that, like other State-sector employees, teachers should be free to choose from the range of facilities on offer whether they be publicly or privately controlled. A teacher is after all employed to teach, not to act as an ambassador for State education.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM C. ROSEBLADE, 245 Chiltwell Lane, Bramcote, Nottingham.

NHS resources

From Mr Derek W. Parsons

Sir, Dr J. L. G. Thomson (April 5) and Dr Oscar Craig (April 10) point out the need for more magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners in the NHS. Sadly, new high technology is expensive, and has to compete for a piece of the NHS cake.

When recently my surgeon advised an MRI scan to investigate my disabling back pain, I was lucky, as I could have one done privately and thus have speedy curative surgery. I was spared the invasion of a needle and contrast into the spinal space, and the invasion of more X-rays.

My NHS patients with similar problems cannot have an MRI scan as the district health authority budget allows for the purchase of only 20 such scans a year for a population of 300,000. Their chances of this more informative investigation appear bleaker with the White Paper proposals, with tighter budget control, and no more cake.

Yours etc., DEREK W. PARSONS (Consultant orthopaedic surgeon), Meon House, Meon Close, Downs Way, Tadworth, Surrey.

Red herring?

From Miss S. B. S. Pigrome

Sir, Your account in today's paper (April 17) of the sale of illegally caught salmon to hotel chefs reminds me that I once stayed at a hotel at which the dinner menu included "poached Severn salmon". At the time I thought this ambiguous, but now I wonder whether the management were not simply being honest.

Yours faithfully, STELLA PIGROME, Round Chimney, Playden, Rye, East Sussex. April 17.

ise to a verbal one does not disguise the religious one-upmanship implicit.

Although priests and rabbis may wish such unions did not occur, surely we must consider a mixed-faith family that is loving and God-fearing to be better than one that is seething with religious rivalry or that declares "a plague on both your houses". It means giving the couple the freedom to establish their own religious life-style, without burdening them with guilt or constricting them with edicts.

The traditions of both partners must carry equal weight and the religious identity of any children is for the parents to decide and cannot be hijacked by either faith.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN ROMAIN, Maidenhead Synagogue, 9 Boyn Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Marriage and religion

From Rabbi Jonathan Romain

Sir, The dilemma faced by the Catholic Church with regard to mixed-faith marriages ("Catholics in confusion", article, April 7) is shared by synagogues and most other religious groups. We consider it preferable that a person marries someone of their own faith, yet have to acknowledge that there is an increasing tendency not to do so.

Once we have come to terms with that reality — and it is a difficult task — we then meet another problem. We want to maintain the faith and pass it on to the next generation, but it is fair to insist that one partner's religion takes precedence over that of the other? Not if we recognise, as Judaism does, that there are many ways to heaven and that all the major faiths are valid in the eyes of God. Changing a written prom-

120 years on Lenin loses some of his icon status

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

BANNERS fluttered in the main streets of Moscow yesterday and white-shirted and red-scarved "young pioneers" goose-stepped in force around Red Square as groups of their elders swept the streets with large brooms.

This frenzied activity was all in aid of tomorrow's 120th anniversary of the birth of Lenin, the first Soviet leader.

Today will see the "voluntary" Saturday work effort, known since Lenin's time as the *subbotnik*, in full swing. Everyone is supposed to knock down and put in a day's manual labour for the good of their souls, the glory of Lenin and the improvement of their surroundings — but not necessarily in that order.

This year for the first time organizers of the *subbotnik* (mostly local and city party organizations who then delegate the task to workplace managers) were required to announce in advance the causes to which the funds earned would be donated.

In the past that decision was taken behind closed doors afterwards, leaving the suspicion that a proportion at least went straight into the Communist Party's coffers.

All this 120th-anniversary activity affords the observer a delicately balanced view of the old and the new. Other, further-flung parts of the country may have taken to toppling and vandalizing statues of Lenin but the many in Moscow are still safe.

Change is, none the less, in the wind.

The banners may be out over Kalinin Prospekt, but they are white and not red. Nor are they unadorned Lenin, since they say such things as "Perestroika is the rebirth of Lenin's idea of socialism".

Two months ago *Pravda* published a reassessment of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin which attempted to preserve him as a man and banishing the icon he has become. Lenin was a man with failings, not all of whose sayings were valid today,

Pravda said. He was a great leader and a great thinker, but not a saint, not even of communism.

The state historical library, housed not far from Red Square in a tumble-down building in which everyone speaks in whispers, has just mounted an exhibition of previously banned books about Lenin. Most of them have authors with familiar names: Bukharin, Zinoviyev, Kameney — and Trotsky.

A small group of volumes deals with the last agonizing year of Lenin's life and his death. One contains a description of his fatal illness by seven doctors, an account of the patient's behaviour, a medical analysis and a minute-by-minute account of the post-mortem examination, which was reported to have lasted from 11.10am to 3.50pm.

The glasnost-minded *Moscow News* this week published an article headlined "The tragedy of Lenin" in its Russian-language edition. It was a title unthinkable until recently, as was the article's discussion of his powerlessness — and that of the system he set up — to prevent Stalin becoming leader.

The article was only a step away from arguing, as several Soviet historians already have, that the seeds of Stalin's terror were sown by Lenin.

Such a fundamental reassessment of Lenin's official place in Russian and Soviet history is still a long way off, however. The new reformist leaders of the Moscow City Council, elected last month, made a point of going to lay wreaths at the Lenin Mausoleum yesterday morning, presumably, their communist credentials came in for hostile scrutiny.

At the same time the vast red-brick Lenin Museum on the edge of Red Square was crowded with the "young pioneers", the next generation of Soviet communists.

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Giant status: Workmen in Moscow yesterday putting the finishing touches to an anniversary portrait of Lenin

Tebbit defends Asians comment

Continued from page 1

even in their own countries. But British Asians accused Mr Tebbit of being "hurtful, scandalous and very silly" with the "cricket test loyalty" remark which he made originally in an interview published in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Professor Bhikhu Parekh of Hull University said: "It is absolutely disgraceful for someone of his experience and stature to say this kind of thing. Is loyalty a matter of cheering a cricket team or of a fundamental affiliation to a country's way of life?"

The Professor, who recently stepped down as deputy chairman of the Commission for

Racial Equality, added that Asians would not only be offended but outraged and feel betrayed. He said that in the past 40 years the Asian community had worked very hard to make a contribution.

Meanwhile China reacted angrily to the Commons vote on the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill. It described it as a breach of Britain's solemn international obligations and an attempt to retain control over Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese control.

A spokesman for the New China News Agency, China's *de facto* embassy in the colony, said the Bill conflicted with the memorandum on

nationality attached to the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong.

It also breached China's nationality laws under which all ethnic Chinese in Hong Kong are considered Chinese nationals. He attacked Britain's decision to award passports without consulting Peking and gave a warning that far from encouraging key personnel to remain in the territory the Bill would lead to an increased exodus.

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Mr Tebbit: Remarks condemned as insulting

Power workers vote for strike on 10% demand

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

THE Government's programme to privatize the electricity industry was last night threatened with the spectre of nationwide blackouts as union leaders, representing 76,000 workers, were given the mandate to organize strike action after the rejection of the 8.5 per cent pay offer.

In a ballot, 27,719 said they were prepared to strike with 16,959 voting against. They also decided by 42,399 to 4,819 to take industrial action short of an all-out strike.

Leaders of the four unions, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Transport and General Workers, the GMB general union and the EETPU, immediately used the figures to call on the employers to make a better offer.

Although they have not quantified their claim, they have made it clear they are seeking rises of at least 10 per cent coupled with improvements in working conditions.

Last year, following a period of sabre-rattling in which the prospect of blackouts was raised, the unions secured a 9.2 per cent settlement.

Yesterday, Mr Frank Chapman, chairman of the trade union side, said: "We have advised the employers of the result of this ballot and asked them to reflect on the mandate we have had from members."

Mr Chapman added: "Given the impact of the poll tax and the very high mortgage rates our members were never going to accept such an unrealistic offer."

Any strike by the workers would not result in an immediate loss of electricity to homes or industry. The effect would be gradual and depend on the need to maintain and repair turbines and other crucial machinery.

Armed with the mandate, the union leaders will hold talks on May 3 with officials of the Electricity Association, which represents PowerGen, National Power and area electricity boards.

The union leaders sense that with the flotation of the industry expected in November they are arguing from a position of strength.

The Government will find the prospect of selling off an industry whose workers have demonstrated their willing-

ness to take strike action extremely unattractive.

Privately, the union leaders, in common with colleagues in other industries, have made it clear they now regard the 10.2 per cent pay settlement achieved by Ford workers as the "going rate".

Rail union leaders, who resume their talks on Monday have also made it clear they will not be satisfied with any settlement under double figures.

Increasingly, the union leaders in the electricity industry are citing the poll tax and high mortgage rates as reasons why their members will "never accept" such an unrealistic offer.

Curlew -> morris

Prague agrees to another new name

Prague

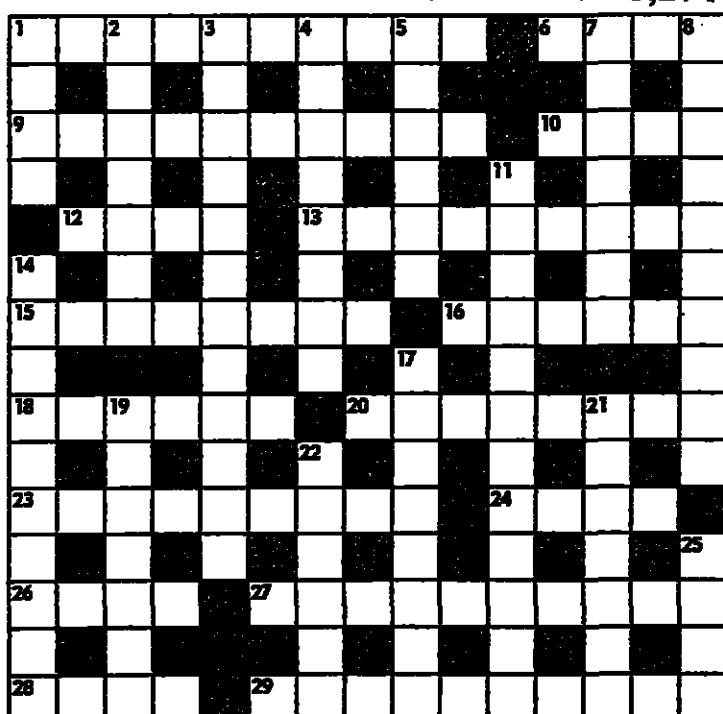
THE parliament of Czechoslovakia yesterday approved a new version of the country's name, designed to give equal weight to its two republics, after weeks of growing tensions between Czechs and Slovaks.

The name, "Czech and Slovak Federative Republic," was approved by a landslide in both houses of the legislature after an inconclusive first vote. The legislation had to be accepted by a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

It was the second name change in less than a month. Parliament renamed the country "The Czechoslovak Federative Republic" on March 23, replacing the word "Socialist" with "Federative" to symbolize the country's shedding of its communist past.

Parliament then permitted the Slovaks to hyphenate "Czechoslovak" to underline the equality of the two republics. However, Slovaks, representing one third of the country's population of 15.5 million, demanded that their identity be specified more clearly in a new name. (AP)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,274



- ACROSS**
- 1 Prisoner's offence, or intended offence (10).
 - 2 Indian triumph (4).
 - 3 Aim gun at position in the field (5-5).
 - 4 Will its swan swim here? (4).
 - 5 Backward African village is a stimulus to action (4).
 - 6 Evoke demand for the "Unfinished" (4,3).
 - 7 A type of therapy (8).
 - 8 Seurat worked in this Greek house (6).
 - 9 Hurt by this? Send for the doc, I would say (6).
 - 10 Passion to bind poet (8).
 - 11 It may be said of your current occupation (9).
 - 12 Heroine following Pip in the afternoon (4).
 - 13 Mother's a spirit (4).
 - 14 There's a head on a man who's well-disciplined (10).
 - 15 Not up to being a teacher? (4).
 - 16 Look smaller in spite of everything (10).

Concise crossword, page 44

Solution to Puzzle No 18,268

DIATONIC BRAVED
TIA M T E E
GANDER AIRSTRIPE
L E R R D I U
DINGDONG LESSER
A A W E T I M A
U G B A E A O
PIRETAFF ANGER
P N A F B N L L
ORIENT ALLEYWAY
R T I I A G T
TATTOOER LOOKIN
E E N E O A O
RIDERS SEMITONE

- DOWN**
- 1 China bird (4).
 - 2 Basque kingdom near to collapse, invaded by part of France (7).
 - 3 Fall for the subject of this epic (8,4).
 - 4 Search vigorously and produce a turnip, say (4-4).
 - 5 Light sweet left unfinished by the French (6).
 - 6 Retreat from defeat in battle (7).
 - 7 City's game couldn't finish in such bad weather (10).
 - 8 Cancelled official report as confidential (3,3,6).
 - 9 Publication not available to carry a rights issue (5,5).
 - 10 Unappreciated daughter has a bond with essayist (8).
 - 11 22 have opportunity to cheat (3-4).
 - 12 Such a press — need more air badly (7).
 - 13 Engaged pair put money into car (6).
 - 14 Where our responsibility lies? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,273

SALES MAN APPEND
A A P R B R X I
NURSE BAILIWICK
G G A U S V L Y
USHERETTE ARENA
I E U C T Y
N A T I V E S T R I L Y
E T I V E S L O S
G O T H I C L O N G B O W
S E O O O S A
E P M O H O G G O B L I N
E M S O E K E N
S C O U N D R E L A G I L E
A R C T I C P G R
W O N D E R V A I N I S H E D

SHEAFFER. A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 436, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- STUDDLE**
a. A post or prop
b. A dog-collar back stud
c. To plant potatoes
- CHINAMPA**
a. Racialist for a Chinese
b. Fermented chicky drink
c. A floating garden
- SALLENDERS**
a. A disease of horses' hooves
b. Michaelmas term at Shrewsbury
c. Spring onions
- ZAC**
a. A sleeping bag
b. An old story-teller
c. A sixpence

Answers on page 14

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Doncaster, Herts & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wales, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedf, Herts & Essex	707
Northants, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gloucesters & Chyvd	715
NW England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Derbyshire & Lake District	719
SW Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
NW Scotland	725
Southwest, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0636 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Portland	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

with bright spells and showers mainly in eastern parts of Northern Ireland. England and Wales will be mostly cloudy with outbreaks of showers, with the best of any sunshine in western and south-western parts. Eastern and north-eastern England could have more persistent rain or drizzle. Outlook: Unsettled and rather cold in the east and south, with the best of the sunshine in the north and west.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aleppo	11/22	SE	100
Amman	20/28	SE	100
Algiers	17/23	SE	100
Antwerp	14/17	SE	100
Baghdad	27/31	SE	100
Bombay	29/34	SE	100
Buenos Aires	18/24	SE	100
Calcutta	28/34	SE	100
Cairo	24/30	SE	100
Cardiff	10/15	SE	100
Chennai	28/34	SE	100
Cebu	28/34	SE	100
Dhaka	28/34	SE	100
Dubrovnik	18/24	SE	100
Edinburgh	10/15	SE	100
Geneva	10/15	SE	100
Hong Kong	24/27	SE	100
Imbabura	14/27	SE	100
Isle of Man	10/15	SE	100
Jeddah	33/41	SE	100
Jersey	10/15	SE	100
Kuala Lumpur	28/34	SE	100
L. Palma	20/28	SE	100

* denotes Thursday's figures

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: London, 13C (59F); lowest day temp: London, 10C (50F); highest night temp: London, 11C (52F); lowest night temp: London, 8C (46F).

GLASGOW

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (56F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.35 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 6.3 hr.

AA ROADWATCH

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City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London Bridge	11/24	SE	100
London Orbital	10/22	SE	100
Amman	20/28	SE	100
Belfast	11/17	SE	100
Cardiff	10/15	SE	100
Dartford	10/15	SE	100
Dover	10/15	SE	100
Falmouth	10/15	SE	100
Glasgow	10/15	SE	100
Hull	10/15	SE	100
Imbabura	14/27	SE	100
Isle of Man	10/15	SE	100
Jeddah	33/41	SE	100
Jersey	10/15	SE	100
Kuala Lumpur	28/34	SE	100
L. Palma	20/28	SE	100

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft. Times are BST

TODAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	11/24	SE	100
Amman	20/28	SE	100
Belfast	11/17	SE	100
Cardiff	10/15	SE	100
Dartford	10/15	SE	100
Dover	10/15	SE	100
Falmouth	10/15	SE	100
Glasgow	10/15	SE	100
Hull	10/15	SE	100
Imbabura	14/27	SE	100
Isle of Man	10/15	SE	100
Jeddah	33/41	SE	100
Jersey	10/15	SE	100
Kuala Lumpur	28/34	SE	100
L. Palma	20/28	SE	100

TOMORROW

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	11/24	SE	100
Amman	20/28	SE	100
Belfast	11/17	SE	100
Cardiff	10/15	SE	100
Dartford	10/15	SE	100
Dover	10/15	SE	100
Falmouth	10/15	SE	100
Glasgow	10/15	SE	100
Hull	10/15	SE	100
Imbabura	14/27	SE	100
Isle of Man	10/15	SE	100
Jeddah	33/41	SE	100
Jersey	10/15	SE	100
Kuala Lumpur	28/34	SE	100
L. Palma	20/28	SE	100

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Alumasc agrees £32m takeover by Glynwed

By Michael Tate
Deputy City Editor

THE management team, which bought out Alumasc from Consolidated Gold Fields for £4.5 million in 1984, has agreed to sell the business to Glynwed International for £32 million.

Glynwed, the Aga and Rayburn heaters to building and engineering products group, has launched a one-for-one share offer, valuing each Alumasc share at 248p.

It has won the irrevocable acceptance of the board and other shareholders speaking for 48.1 per cent of the equity.

A 22.5p a share cash alternative is being made available by Schroders.

Alumasc shares leapt 69p to 232p. At the offer price, Alumasc's p/e ratio is 11.9.

Mr John McCall, the chairman and chief executive who floated Alumasc on the stock market in May 1986 at a price of £18.4 million, is still the company's largest shareholder, with about 18.5 per cent.

His holding is worth £5.6 million at the bid price.

Last February, Mr McCall unveiled a 7.6 per cent rise in Alumasc half-year profits to £2.22 million, and disclosed that the group had run into net debt for the first time.

He now believes Alumasc's expansion programme can be more comfortably resourced



Expecting deal to bring significant benefits: Gareth Davies, chairman of Glynwed

within a larger group. "We are keen to expand in all three of our main areas," he said.

Aside from being Britain's biggest producer of aluminium and stainless steel beer

containers and supplying beer taps and fittings, it is a leading supplier of aluminium rain-

water systems and a precision engineering equipment manufacturer. It employs 1,000 people in the Midlands.

All three areas fit snugly with Glynwed, whose chairman and chief executive, Mr

Gareth Davies, expects to achieve "significant operating

and financial benefits." He added that the acquisition should provide further opportunities for expanding Alumasc's businesses.

The Alumasc management team will stay, and Mr McCall said he envisaged no job losses as a result of the deal.

City Gate bid backed by 85%

Accura, the Swedish property group bidding £22 million for the developer City Gate Estates, received acceptances in respect of 85 per cent of the shares by the first closing date. The bid has been declared unconditional.

The significance of the agreed bid for the former Business Expansion Scheme company in terms of demonstrating Swedish interest in British property has since been dwarfed by the £500 million bid for LET by SPP, the Swedish pension group.

Accura bid 140p cash per City Gate share, 10p less than the USM placing price in 1988.

Early's loss

Early's of Witney, the Oxfordshire textile company reported a pre-tax loss of £1.04 million for the year to January. Grovewood Securities, which announced a £13 million recommended offer for Early's last month, has dispatched its offer document. A £2.7 million extraordinary profit, principally from the sale of land, led to an attributable profit of £2.04 million. No final dividend is being paid because of Grovewood's 22.5p-a-share cash bid.

Waterford call

Shareholders have backed the £22.8 million (£22.2 million) cash call by Waterford Wedgwood, the struggling Irish-based furniture group. Waterford found takers for 83.49 per cent of stock on offer. The remainder was placed in the market at £28.85, £1.35 above the issue price.

Jenners rises

Jenners, the Edinburgh department store operator, has reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £1.94 million to £2.05 million in the year to end-January. Turnover rose 12.2 per cent to £28.1 million, despite refurbishment work. The final dividend is 24p, up from 21p, making 40p, against 35p.

Pearson purse

Lord Blakenham, chairman and chief executive of Pearson, the publishing, banking and leisure conglomerate, enjoyed an increase in salary from £299,000 to £465,000 in the year to end-December.

P&O option

P&O and Citicorp's Citibank have won an option to develop a commercial property project, estimated to cost £200 million, in Hamburg, West Germany.

FKB share suspension puts pressure on sector

By Martin Waller

A CHILL wind blew through the battered agencies sector yesterday as FKB Group, which claims to be the world's leading independent marketing services company, suspended its shares. It gave warning of financial difficulties and a possible rights issue.

FKB represented "the classic agency story," according to BZW's research team, having stumbled over the difficulty of funding delayed earn-outs from earlier acquisitions.

BZW issued a warning that others in the sector, including the market leader, Mr Martin Sorrell's WPP Group, could now experience a drop in their share prices. WPP owes an estimated £150 million in deferred payments for acquisitions.

Mr Philip Higson at BZW predicted that WPP's shares, 9p lower at 620p yesterday, would come under further pressure because of the news about FKB.

"We're not criticizing the WPP management at all," he said.

"But the market will perceive higher risk and therefore require a bigger discount to the general stock market rating to justify buying the shares while trading news from similar companies continues on FKB lines," said Mr Higson.

He said WPP shares, which sell on a multiple of almost eight times future earnings, could slip to a multiple of seven. This would mean another 60p off the share price.

But BZW emphasized that its forecast downgrading for WPP was based only on the market's perception, not on fundamentals.

Deals done in the boom years for marketing agencies are coming home to roost in

hard times, with massive amounts now due to the original vendors having to be paid from depleted cash flows.

To make matters worse for those companies which have expanded rapidly, some vendors were offered the choice of taking their deferred payments in cash or shares and are now electing for the former, given the collapse in share prices.

FKB's shares were suspended at 118p, valuing the company at £32 million, compared with a high of 337p last July.

The company said that although trading remained profitable, profits for the year to end-March would be substantially below expectations.

This was mainly because of disappointing results from various subsidiaries, particularly FKB Direct in the US, bought in autumn 1988.

Borrowings rose mainly because of earn-out obligations, and the bankers, while pledging continued support, insisted on a full financial review and the raising of new capital.

This would be either

through a rights issue or a new investor - Dentsu, the Japanese advertising agency, is believed to have expressed an interest.

Mr Brian Francis, the joint chief executive, said he had been advised to give no further details of FKB's financial woes. There were 10 significant acquisitions, including FKB Direct, still subject to profit-related earn-outs.

Sources suggest FKB is approaching its £30 million borrowing limit set by its bankers, who are likely to be unhappy about extending this in the present climate.

As conditions stand, the company can probably expect to have to find another £30 million in deferred payments over the next five years.

BZW only this week highlighted FKB as one of the sector's walking wounded, but said Mr Higson: "I was shocked that it happened so quickly."

He blamed the company's decline on management turmoil - there have been three acting finance directors in 18 months - too-hasty expansion before the economic downturn, and rising debts.

"It will happen again. The market must be concerned about any stock with that level of debt and deferred payments."

His own estimate was that FKB had almost £60 million in deferred earn-outs for which it could become potentially liable.

He had been looking for results of £10 million pre-tax to end-March.

"There's no point in having another forecast. What we're talking about is whether or not the bankers have got the stomach to fund them, Mr Higson said."

October, 1989. The investigation centres on the merger of the troubled defence group with International Signal and Control.

Mr Roberts, now a self-employed accountant, was a director of Scrimgeour Vickers Asset Management, the private client broking arm of Scrimgeour Vickers, until last July. Scrimgeour is also the subject of a separate civil suit from Smith New Court over the 38 million Ferranti shares it sold to the broker.

An investigation into the shares sale was launched by the Serious Fraud Office in

investment business from making false or misleading statements in the course of their business.

The charges against Mr Roberts, of Parkway, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex, relate to the sale of a large number of Ferranti shares by Scrimgeour Vickers Asset Management, part of the US Citicorp Group, to the brokers Smith New Court on July 21 last year.

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COMMENT

Hidden reasons why British firms are prey to takeovers

The British Coal pension funds' rather mundane bid for Globe, flagship of the investment trust fleet, was always liable to happen, despite all the best efforts of the managers of Globe and other investment trusts over the past few years. On the measure used by County NatWest Wood-Mac, the leading broker in the sector, shares in investment trusts have traded over the past year at an average discount to the net value of their investments of between 12 per cent and 21 per cent.

It should always pay a pension fund that had a lot of cash to invest in shares to bid for a suitable investment trust since the cost of buying such a portfolio would be much higher, as many have done over the past decade. Indeed, this is the biggest single reason why the long-standing discount in investment trust shares has shrunk.

This inveterate discount has long been seen as a special problem for investment trusts, an anomaly in the market caused by the shrinking role of the private investor and the success of the rival unit trusts. But this may have been a myopic view.

Shares in property companies also habitually sell at a sizeable discount to the net-asset value of their portfolios - even after allowing for capital gains liabilities.

Properties are not as homogeneous as shares, but many companies, including most recently Laing Properties, and London & Edinburgh Trust, have fallen to bidders because the cost of buying comparable properties was much greater than bidding for a quoted property company. Companies holding oil properties may be liable to the same fate.

What these groups have in common is that a "true" value for

their shares is readily measurable. Yet in normal day-to-day trading, the market in their shares can only be cleared at a significantly lower price.

There is no accurate way of measuring such an underlying value for most conventional trading companies because they are too individual. The stock market value of their shares is therefore assumed to be the true value. Takeover bids, which are normally at a substantial premium to market value, have therefore been explained as increasing value by improving management or strategy.

The sustained boom in takeovers over many years could be better explained, however, if it were assumed that most companies' shares traded at a discount to their "true" value. Shares in mature conglomerates, for instance, often trade at a discount to the "break-up" value estimated by City analysts, as do diversified groups such as ICI.

Financial institutions usually accept bids, not because of anti-social short-term thinking, but because they have no other means of eliminating the day-to-day market discount at which shares habitually trade.

Most takeovers are made because firms wanting to expand can do so much more cheaply, quickly and safely by buying another company. In Japan, by contrast, there are few takeovers. While some attribute this to inscrutable Oriental cultural differences, the numbers suggest a simpler explanation.

Even after the shake-out, shares in Japanese companies sell, on average, at more than 30 times earnings compared with about 11

times earnings in Britain. In Japan, it is usually cheaper to expand by building a factory or developing new products than by buying your rivals. Much the same applies in West Germany, where shares sell at around 19 times earnings.

The imbalance between the stock market and bid values of companies in Britain is partly due to sustained high interest rates for most of the past generation. Such rates depress share values while greatly increasing the cost and risk to companies of expanding other than by acquisition.

But there are also structural differences in supply and demand for shares. In Japan, and on the Continent, substantial stakes in many companies are held by other companies or financial institutions as part of permanent trading relationships. The supply of shares in big companies is therefore much smaller than might appear. In Britain and the US, however, financial institutions usually hold shares simply as part of a moving managed portfolio, and they are willing sellers if one company's shares rise out of line.

The other imbalance is the shrinkage lack of private shareholding in Britain. The multiplication of the number of shareholders over the past few years has done virtually nothing to change this. Most own only shares in privatized companies and the vast majority of personal equity plans are managed by institutions. Much greater individual share ownership, spurred by tax structures, lower costs and better marketing, could do more than any artificial measure to stop British industry consuming itself in takeover bids instead of expanding.

is eroding the supremacy of chartered accountants in industry. Bringing in public sector skills will also do far more to give British accountants a stronger voice in the European Community, as well as economy-wide dominance at home. Britain has the biggest and most dynamic accountancy profession in Europe, but unless it is in a stronger position to take the initiative, the Germans may well ensure that inferior continental practices triumph over international standards in the harmonization of EC accounting standards.

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Why auditors should not be cynics

The 90,000 members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, who this week have received voting forms for yet another merger, may well have become cynical about the ICA's endless urge for corporate matrimony.

There are fears in the Council that those who so overwhelmingly voted to absorb the Scots, only to be rebuffed from north of the border, may not give the necessary two-thirds majority to bring in the 11,000-strong public sector accountants of the Chartered Institute for Public Finance & Accountancy (Cipfa).

It is certainly a more fun-

damental decision. The Scots merger was a simple takeover, while merging with Cipfa, whose members are trained largely on the job, involves a separate vote to allow supervised training in industry for the first time. However, the Cipfa plan is more important to the profession and should bring much greater benefits.

Despite the shrinkage of the public sector, Cipfa is no dead duck. It has a high reputation and a stronger growth in student numbers to meet rapidly rising demand in areas such as the National Health Service, which offer some of the most exciting new challenges for accountants. Meanwhile, the lack of on-the-job training facilities

is eroding the supremacy of chartered accountants in industry.

Bringing in public sector skills will also do far more to give British accountants a stronger voice in the European Community, as well as economy-wide dominance at home. Britain has the biggest and most dynamic accountancy profession in Europe, but unless it is in a stronger position to take the initiative, the Germans may well ensure that inferior continental practices triumph over international standards in the harmonization of EC accounting standards.

Camford optimism on profit

By Our City Staff

CAMFORD Engineering, the motor components group fighting a hostile £64 million takeover bid from the Australian-backed Markheath Securities, expects to achieve a 37 per cent rise in profits for the current year.

In its defence document, Camford forecasts pre-tax profits of £8 million for the year to end-September, and a 33 per cent rise in earnings per share to more than 25p.

Mr Brian Cox, the chairman, also forecasts a 40 per cent increase in "engineering dividends" to 8.8p a share. This is over and above the annual property dividends of at least 15p a share that the group has promised for the next three years.

Taking into account all the forecast dividends, Camford shares yield a prospective 10.4 per cent at Markheath's 305p offer price, says Mr Cox.

However, Markheath continues to question the property dividends with regard to an "assumption in relation to land exchange" which, it says, "is critical to both the value of the Stevenage site and to Camford's ability to pay the so-called 'property' dividends."

Camford shares jumped 8p to 328p.

Ketson recovers but omits payout

By Philip Pangalos

KETSON, the marketing and public relations group which underwent a £5 million refinancing last May, is back in the black with pre-tax profits of £122,000 for 1989, compared with a loss of £960,000.

Turnover rose 44 per cent to

£21 million. Earnings per share reached 0.2p (7.8p loss) but there is no dividend (1p). The realignment of Ketson is now complete. IETC, a management consultant, was the main contributor to profits, with higher revenues due to a broader client base.

Moorgate Group, a public relations firm, reduced losses

and Cooper Directory Marketing experienced a similar turnaround.

There is an extraordinary debit of £179,000 because of subsidiary closures and costs relating to the approach by a consortium led by City and Westminster Financial.

The shares firm by 1/2p to 11 1/2p on the news.

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RECORD
AND A
£2,000 FINE
FOR DOING
NOTHING.**

If you're a director of a private limited company, you have ten months from the end of your financial year to send us your accounts.
As well as an annual return within six weeks of your AGM.
If you don't, you'll be personally liable for a fine of up to £2,000 and a criminal record.
Which is something you won't have accounted for.

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P.O. Box 420, Cardiff CF4 3UZ. Tel: 0222 389588.

Companies House is an executive agency within the Department of Trade and Industry.

Sheraton Securities shares suspended at 36p

By Matthew Bond

SHERATON Securities has become the latest casualty of the combination of high interest rates and lack of institutional concern that is beginning to decimate the property sector.

The news that Sheraton's shares had been suspended at 36p, after falling 6p from their overnight close, sent property shares into reverse. Concern centred on the fact that Sheraton is one of the best-regarded development companies. If it was in serious trouble, the implications for the sector as a whole are grave.

Anticipation that a big developer was in trouble knocked 32p off Speyhawk's shares on Thursday. But it recovered 10p of that fall to 179p when the victim emerged as Sheraton.

Sheraton's announcement blamed the slowdown in the sale of completed developments for the company's problems. Mr Peter Taylor, managing director, said: "Some jobs we would have expected to forward fund, others we would have expected to sell. We have not - that is the problem."

As a result, the company was approaching its institutional shareholders and its banks "to put arrangements in place to secure the company's financial position." Mr Taylor said most of the parties contacted were reacting positively.

At the interim stage, last December, Sheraton admitted its on-balance sheet gearing was more than 140 per cent, but announced its intention to reduce that to 100 per cent. But analysts believe the company had a

similar amount of debt held off balance sheet, taking total borrowings towards £300 million and gearing to above 300 per cent. Its costly development programme would, if anything, have increased borrowings.

Sheraton's last full-year figures, to March 1988, showed doubled pre-tax profits of £23.2 million and that progress had been maintained at the last interim.

SG Warburg, the company's adviser, is seeking a buyer for all, or part, of the company. At the suspension price Sheraton is valued at £49 million. It is thought that the high level of interest being shown in development companies by overseas investors may well provide a solution.

"We have a very strong portfolio of properties. We have had a lot of interest from third parties," Mr Taylor said.

Sheraton's problem is straightforward and common to all specialist developers. Profits are made by selling completed developments to an institution. If they are not buying, now, the development must be held. The problem is that the returns, in the form of rents, do not cover the interest cost on the development finance.

Sheraton becomes the latest property company to reveal problems. Other shares suspended include Rush & Tompkins and Wiggins, while both

Finlan and Priest Mariani have revealed severe problems with borrowings. Only Rosehaugh has been of sufficient size to expand its capital base with a £125 million rights issue.

• Ex dividends, or Cash dividend, is Cash stock split, or Ex stock split, is Cash all (any two or more of above), Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing on weekends days: (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday, (3) Wednesday, (4) Thursday, (5) Friday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

MONEY MARKETS

THIRD MARKET

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

LONDON FOX			LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				
Cocoa			Official prices—London, previous day			Metal/ton	
	AMT Futures	Mar 544-924	(\$/ton)	Cash	3 months	1st	2nd
May 544-978	Mar 544-924						
Jul 544-953	Mar 544-957						
Sept 545-979	Mar 545-979						
Dec 525-922	Vol 10485						
COFFEE			Copper/Cat				
	AMT Futures		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
May 525-955	Mar 725-955		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Jul 525-950	Mar 725-950		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Sept 702-705	Mar 725-725		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Nov 716-719	Mar 725-725		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
90848	Vol 2825		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	C/O 2825		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Edited by Lindsay Cook

FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY APRIL 21 1990

More work wanted

The Unit Trust Ombudsman is seeking more complaints to handle and is prepared to help 1987 crash victims. Page 25

Better return

Selling an insurance policy at auction, or through an agency, should give a better return than early surrender. Page 25

Holiday help

Tour operators will soon have to give financial support to holidaymakers wanting to take legal action. Page 26

Green cover

Motorists, who take their cars to the Continent, need to make sure they have comprehensive cover. Page 27



First Tessa from B&W

THE Bristol & West Building Society has launched the first Tax Exempt Special Savings Account — ahead of the Inland Revenue publishing details of how the accounts will be run.

The account, which has a fixed rate of 13 per cent for five-and-a-half years, guarantees that investors who put £7,500 in the Capital Maker Bond now will receive at least £14,000 on January 2, 1996.

Initially composite rate tax will be deducted from the interest, but in January 23,000 would be transferred into a Tessa and each subsequent year the limit would be placed in the tax-free account.

The Bradford & Bingley and Yorkshire societies have launched accounts which will pay a bonus to Tessa investors.

Society merger battle may be first of many

By Lindsay Cook

THE battle for the tiny Frome Selwood Building Society has become the first contested building society merger. Documents on the planned merger with the Stroud & Swindon Building Society show the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is willing to pay members hundreds of thousands of pounds more.

Building society analysts now expect many more disputed mergers, which could bid up the bonuses paid to building society members.

The 14,500 members of the Frome, in Somerset, have been told in papers proposing a merger with the S&S that the C&G has offered a three per cent bonus to savers and a half per cent discount to borrowers for a full year. But Frome directors are recommending to members that they accept the S&S offer of two per cent and a six-month discount.

The C&G offer is worth £1.26 million to savers after tax is deducted, against £840,000 from the S&S. Borrowers would receive £173,000 from the C&G, compared with half this amount from the S&S. The S&S proposal would, however, give Frome directors six seats on its regional board and two on the main board. The C&G has not offered any directorships to the Frome board. For the

merger to go ahead, 75 per cent of those who vote must be in favour of the merger. But if the two-branch Frome fails to get the vote it will still not be compelled to put the better offer to its members. However, the members can raise the matter at the Frome general meeting on May 17 and call for the C&G offer to be put to the vote.

Frome protesters meet tomorrow to decide how to fight the lower offer. Mr Trevor Morris, the organizer, said: "I think the S&S offer will be turned down. If it goes ahead, my mother, who is 90, would get £400, but she would get £600 from the C&G."

Mr Roy Walwin, Frome's chairman, said it had not recommended the C&G offer because it did not want to become "a tidbit part of a huge organization." He said the Frome might consider a further bonus in the form of a loyalty payment to members.

Dr John Wriglesworth, a building society analyst with UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "This is just the first contested merger. Within six months I expect to see a foreign bank or an insurance company offering to give members the full amount of the reserves, or even more than that, instead of half of the reserves, which is on offer here."



Fight for Frome Selwood could spark a larger war

Low-start mortgages could be limited

By Our Family Money Editor

A RUSH for low-start mortgages is on the cards because the Building Societies Commission is set to impose a limit on the number of low-cost loans that societies can offer each year.

The loans form the mainstay of the mortgage business of many smaller lenders. While standard mortgage rates are at a high, some small societies are doing 50 per cent and more of their mortgage business in the form of low-start loans.

A draft document from the commission suggests an annual limit for the loans of 10 per cent of a society's mortgage business. But societies fear

they will be given a limit on the amount of risk business they can do after the publication of a consultation document by the commission next month.

Low-start loans allow borrowers to defer up to 7 per cent of the interest in the first year. This can offer payments in year one at 8.4 per cent instead of the current standard rates of 15.4 per cent and higher. But the interest is added to the original loan and payments in later years can be more than doubled.

Last month, the commission issued a prudential note on capital adequacy for societies making riskier loans, requiring them to add to their reserves. It also issued a warning that "exposure limits" would be introduced for certain types of

loans. The commission is understood to be concerned about the loans, which can quickly leave a society with a property as a security which is worth less than the money owed on the mortgage.

If a limit had been implemented in 1990, many smaller societies would already have passed the limit for the year and might only be able to offer standard mortgage products for the remaining three quarters. The commission has banned some societies from offering fixed-rate loans, fearing that they might not be able to handle the risks.

However, the limit would help new lenders like the Mortgage Corporation, which has recently specialized in low-start and stabilized mortgage products.

Protection system fails to register suspensions

Watchdog secrecy means more risk for investors

By Barbara Ellis

AN element of Russian roulette has been introduced into the investor protection system by some of the bodies responsible for running it. They are suspending member firms without telling investors.

For nearly two years, investors have been led to believe that they could avoid dealing with unsound businesses simply by checking the status of a firm or person on the Securities and Investment Board's central register.

But the secret procedures of regulators, including the SIB, have made such precautions almost useless.

Central register entries show whether a business has full or interim authorization and record the self-regulatory organization to which it reports.

Investors have been advised to steer clear of interim authorized firms, which are not covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme if they fail. The SIB listed 57 of these companies or individuals at the end of March, and a spokesman said that "a goodly proportion" of them might be in the appeals procedure. This means that, after two years of unsuccessful attempts to gain authorization, the firms are making the most of their rights of appeal and remain in business while doing so.

However, reassurance from the central register that a firm is fully authorized can be worth little if the regulatory body in charge happens to believe in suspending members secretly.

A year ago, Mr Denis Dale-Greaves, of Exeter, was privately barred from taking on new business by Fimbra (the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association). But he continued operating unauthorized client accounts, remaining apparently untroubled by the central register until halted by a Fimbra injunction last month.

About 100 people are trying to trace about £1.6 million they claim to have invested through Mr Dale-Greaves.

The ICS may be unable to help. Although Mr Dale-Greaves remained officially authorized while privately suspended, Miss Myra Kinghorn, the ICS chief executive, said that the business he did during that time might not be covered by the scheme since it might not be classed as "regulated".

A spokeswoman for Fimbra, which has 8,010 members, refused to discuss the Dale-Greaves case, but said that 24 out of the association's 76 current suspensions are private and date back no more than four to six weeks.

She described four sets of circumstances which Fimbra would see as justifying a private suspension:

- Where a company is unable to meet its financial requirements, but is handling clients satisfactorily;
- Where a firm is struggling, but has prospects of being taken over;
- Where a firm has unwittingly employed a crook and needs time to carry out dismissal;
- Where a firm has fallen behind with its financial reporting to the association.

In all cases, Fimbra would take the clients' interests into account first and those of the business second, said the spokeswoman. She added: "In some cases there is a real danger of clients being prejudiced by publicity," instancing half a dozen takeovers where potential white knights might have been scared off by learning of the private suspension.

Private suspensions are also possible at Imro (the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation), where Mr James Eakins said it was more usual for firms to volunteer to reduce their operations once a problem was pointed out.

But both the Securities Association and Lauto (the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation) say they publish all suspensions. Although Lauto's rulebook allows for private reprimands,

Miss Julia Liesching said that if a member was prohibited from taking on business through a particular source, this fact would always be published.

But the SIB came down on the side of secrecy. A spokeswoman said: "I don't think we have ever said whether we have had any secret suspensions and I don't think we would ever say."

However, she conceded: "I suppose it does devalue the central register in a minor way, but it is always going to be a relatively small proportion of the firms checked upon where there is an unofficial suspension not mentioned."

● The Solicitors Complaints Bureau, which helps monitor the 6,800 solicitors firms authorized to give financial advice, had to step in on 10 occasions last year, and has issued a warning of more problems in 1990.

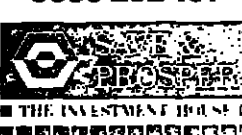
Savers can check that a firm is authorized by asking to see its Investment Business Certificate.

The Law Society has received a growing number of reports about solicitors practising without the certificate. As many as 338 queries were dealt with last year, and action was taken on 10 occasions.

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*Source: Municipal 11/89 to 11/90 offer to bid with net income reinvested. Over 5 years to 1.4.90, the Trust would have returned 25.4%, offer to bid. Fidelity Nominees Limited, Member of IMRO.

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FAMILY MONEY

Facing up to choices of saving

THE boom in building society accounts which pay interest gross is good news for non-taxpayers, but has left them with a vast number of choices.

Miss Kathryn Deane, editor of *Building Society Choice*, has issued a warning to savers not to pick an account just because it pays more interest. She said: "A lot depends on an individual's circumstances: how much tax-free allowances they have left, and how much they are investing."

The newsletter has developed a service which compares a saver's tax status against the best accounts. It is free to subscribers for a limited period. (Tel: 04493-287).

How GA Peps up mortgages

By Jon Ashworth

WHEN asked how they want to repay their mortgages, most borrowers choose endowment policies. With-profit endowments are popular because so many people already have them, and financial advisers and institutions like to recommend them because of the commissions involved.

It takes courage to tackle endowments head-on, but this is what General Accident Life will do when it launches a new range of personal equity plans next week.

A Pep mortgage is at the forefront of GA's package. But such plans have yet to prove attractive to homebuyers, even though they look good on paper. The first reason for this is that they do not pay the

same rate of commission to brokers, and with a short track record advisers are nervous of selecting them yet for clients.

There is also a political problem. The Labour Party has indicated it might replace Peps with a more limited scheme or abolish them altogether. Borrowers could wonder if it is worth taking out a new-plan just to cancel it in two years' time.

Mr Des Waddington, GA's development manager, thinks it is a risk worth taking. Just to make sure, GA will allow its Pep mortgage-holders to switch into an endowment plan free of charge if the worst comes to the worst.

"We'll certainly be stressing the investment risks along

with the threat posed by a change of government. But even if Peps are abolished, plan-holders will still be left with two or three years of tax-free saving."

GA wants to offer the Peps alongside its endowment and repayment mortgages, which are already sold through its 600 estate agencies. GA is tied to four building societies - the Newcastle, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Macclesfield - and it deals with 7,000 independent brokers on a regular basis.

Mr Waddington may consider the example of Dominion Investment Management, which has been selling Pep mortgages since 1987. It will not say how many have been sold, only that 70 per cent of Pep sales last year were mortgage-related.

Pep-holders would have to save about £30 a month to pay off a £30,000 mortgage over 25 years, assuming annual growth of 10.5 per cent. This

compares well with endowments, which would require nearer £50 a month to pay off the same amount at present rates.

The balance also tilts in favour of Pep mortgages when it comes to commission. GA endowment holders pay 67 per cent of their first year's premiums - alone in commission. The amount falls from then on, settling at 2.5 per cent a year in renewal commission for most of the term.

For Peps, the picture is far more simple. Commission is charged at 3 per cent for each contribution for the whole of the term - £1.50 for each £50 in regular savings. The amount is so small that it is hardly surprising advisers prefer endowments to Peps.

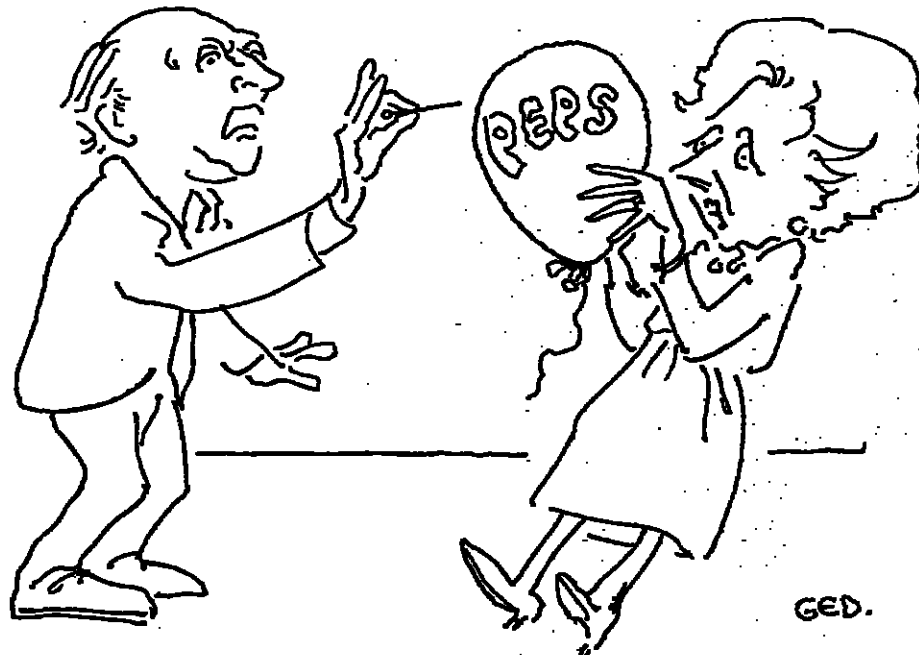
The GA Pep can be linked to either the GANDA unit trust, which invests in UK companies, or its International Portfolio, which se-

lects five UK shares with substantial earnings abroad.

GANDA, which is managed by Edinburgh Fund Managers, prefers household names like Hanson, Glaxo and Rolls-Royce. But it also invests in the likes of Carlton Communications, which has seen its shares halve in value in a matter of months.

The Pep has an initial charge of 5.75 per cent and an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent, or 1 per cent for unit trust only plans. The dealing charge for shares is only 0.25 per cent - well below many rivals.

GA is trying to establish itself in the savings and investments market, and it hopes the launch of the new Pep range will help. The minimum investment in a stand alone GA Pep is £30 a month or £1,000 as a lump sum, up to the maximum of £6,000 a year.



EC capital threat

By Jon Ashworth

EUROPEAN proposals on capital adequacy may be the death knell for independent financial advisers in Britain, according to the British Insurance & Investment Brokers' Association.

Mr David Palmer, the association's chairman, told its annual conference, in Jersey this week, that proposals to raise the required levels of capital would probably decimate the small independent financial advice sector.

The European Community has proposed that advisers should have capital of at least

£32,000, whether they handle money for clients or not.

The new level would be way beyond the means of most independent brokers, many of whom work from home on small budgets.

Mr Palmer said that it would be "out of all proportion" to the risks involved.

The provisions would not affect advisers dealing only in life assurance and pensions, but would affect the growing number who deal in unit trusts.

More than 600 people attended the conference.

BRIEFINGS

■ Mondial Assistance has added a legal helpline to its insurance package for frequent travellers - without raising premiums. The Ambassador 1990 package includes cover for medical expenses, winter sports insurance for up to 17 days, and help if cash or documents are lost. A year's protection costs £70 for Europe and £120 worldwide. A more extensive package is offered at a higher price. Motoring insurance is also available.

■ The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has been granted approval in principle to set up a Guernsey subsidiary, which it expects to be able to offer an instant access account from June. Members of the society will vote on the proposal this month.

■ The Woolwich Building Society has launched a gross investment bond paying up to 15 per cent. The bond, which requires a minimum investment of £2,500, allows no withdrawals until after May 1 next year.

■ The Norwich & Peterborough Building Society has relaunched its fixed interest one-year bond, which will give non-taxpayers the chance to have their interest paid gross if they are able to self-certify that they are non-taxpayers. The interest rate is 11.33 per cent net or 15.1 per cent when paid gross. It has a minimum investment of £5,000. Access to money is available with 30 days' notice.

■ Barclays Bank is to relaunch its higher interest savings accounts on May 1 with the option of monthly interest. Capital Advantage, the 30-day notice account, will pay 11.4 per cent net on sums over £50,000. The Higher Rate Deposit Account will offer four interest rate tiers from 9 per cent to 10.25 per cent.

■ People who do not pay their bills may end up on the Register of County Court Judgments more quickly. Until recently, debtors had a month in which to pay their bills before being registered.

From this month, all uncontested judgements will be registered at once. Banks and credit card companies use the register to check the credit history of new customers.

■ Perpetual has launched a new line of personal equity plans which allow for the recent Budget changes. The Perpetual Growth and Income unit trust Pep will now invest up to half its portfolio in overseas equities. The higher investment limits of £6,000 per person also apply to Perpetual's managed share Pep, and to its share-select

scheme. Regular unit trust Pep savings start at £20 a month.

■ Midland Bank opens its first share shop in the City on Monday, allowing instant buying and selling of 750 different shares. The shop, the tenth to be opened in Midland branches, will be the first to offer a screen-based dealing service. It will open from 9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Commission starts at 1.5 per cent on share deals worth up to £7,000. The minimum charge is £20.

■ Abraxas Management, the Aberdeen unit trust group, has taken in £5 million from new Pep investors since launching its Peps in February. Abraxas's Far East Emerging Economies Fund was the most popular of the four funds available through the Pep. The European Fund has also proved popular. The Far Eastern fund was top of the unit trust league in 1988 and 1989.

■ A new mortgage package for first-time buyers from Birmingham Midshires saves 2 per cent off the society's interest rate for the first six months of the loan. To cut costs further, the loan is being repaid over 40 years rather than 25. The longer term could save £71.50 a month for the first six months on a £40,000 repayment mortgage. For non-taxpayers, the society has launched an investment account paying 15.75 per cent on £2,500. The interest will be paid after April 6, 1991, when composite rate tax will be abolished.

■ Yorkshire Building Society's new offshore subsidiary opened for business this week. Yorkshire Guernsey's gross-paying account, Offshore Key, pays interest at 15 per cent on £15,000 or more, and 14.5 per cent on smaller amounts. The minimum opening deposit is £5,000 and the maximum is £250,000. Money can be withdrawn immediately with the loss of 90 days' interest. Withdrawals after three months' notice are free of charge.

■ A managed unit trust and regular savings scheme form part of a new investment package from Laurentian Unit Trust Management. The managed trust, which carries an initial charge of 60 per cent, will mainly invest in Laurentian's seven other trusts. The minimum lump sum is £500, and there is a one per cent discount until May 4 on investments of £1,000 or more. Regular savings start at £25 a month, and withdrawals and switches can be made by investors without incurring penalties.

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FAMILY MONEY

Benefit by putting life policy under auctioneer's hammer

By Sara McConnell

PEOPLE surrendering an endowment policy before it has matured can usually expect to lose money. Insurance companies deliberately set surrender values low to dissuade policyholders from cashing in early.

But the continuing property market slump, coupled with high mortgage interest rates, is persuading many people to cut their monthly outgoings by cashing in an endowment policy.

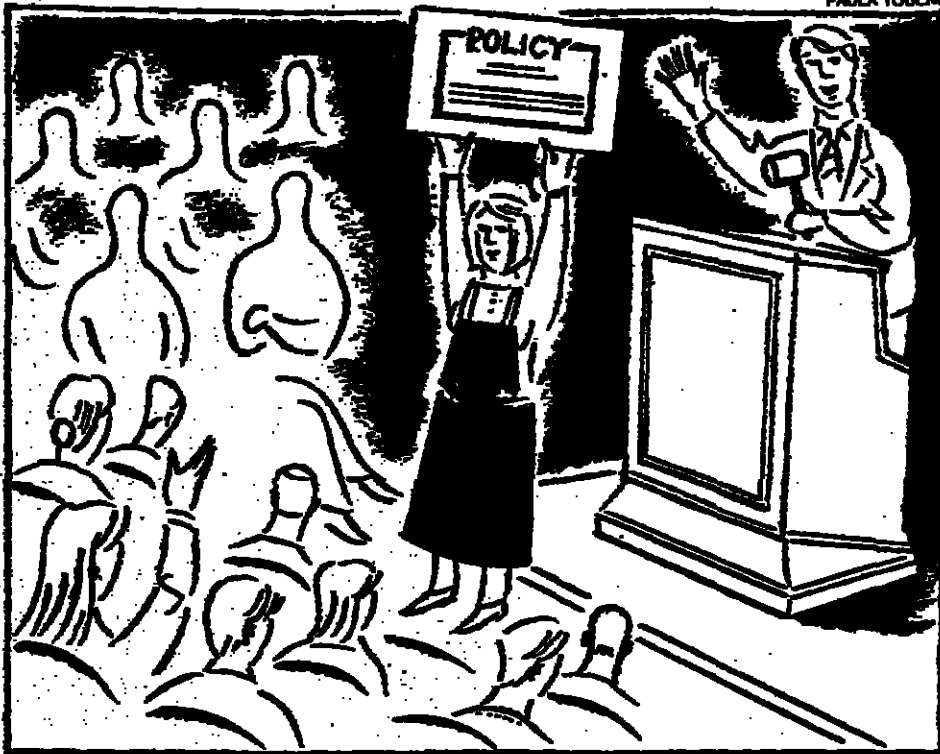
They can do better if they sell the policy either at auction or to a specialist agent who will then sell it on to a buyer. Mr Christopher Dobie, founder director of Beale Dobie, the second hand life policy specialist, estimated that the average price paid at auction - after commission is deducted - was 12 per cent more than the surrender value.

There are many reasons for selling an endowment policy. Sometimes the policyholder has sold their property, leaving a redundant endowment. They may divorce, leaving an unwanted policy written in joint names. Or they may simply need the money.

Companies like Policy Portfolio, Policy Network and Beale Dobie buy policies and sell them on when they find a buyer.

H F Foster and Cranfield, the auctioneer, does not buy policies in its own name, but sells endowments as lots at its regular sales.

But all say they will only



PAULA YOUNG

price achieved at auction plus a £50 auction charge. However, Mr Bill Weston, a partner, pointed out there would be no charge if the policy did not sell.

Buyers of second hand policies can get a good deal, particularly if they were likely to find it difficult to take out a policy secured on their own life. Although the buyer of an endowment pays the premiums and gets the advantage of benefits, the policy continues to be secured on the original owner's life.

Buyers in high risk categories for insurance purposes, such as people with heart disease or those thought to be at risk from Aids, can benefit from a policy on a healthy life. The downside is that the policy cannot be linked to a mortgage without taking out extra-tenor assurance because it is not secured on the new owner's life.

Anyone buying a second hand policy should make sure that first rights to the proceeds of the policy are not assigned to anyone else, particularly a mortgage lender or a bank. Companies selling policies should check that policies are clear of any assignments.

Further details can be obtained by contacting the following companies: Policy Portfolio, Wellington House, 270 Westford Way, NW4 (01-203 7221); Policy Network, 16 Road Lane, EC3 (01-929 2971); Beale Dobie, 3, The Friars, Friars Lane, Maldon, Essex (0621-851133); and Foster & Cranfield, 20 Britton Street, EC1 (01-608 1941).

consider certain types of policy for sale. Generally, only policies from the best performing life offices are acceptable.

Mr Malcolm Postgate, chairman of Policy Network, said: "We accept policies from the top 20 to 30 companies. We have to ask whether the company is going to be around and able to pay its terminal bonuses in 10 or 20 years' time."

Policies which have been running for at least a quarter of their term will fetch a better

price as they have been going long enough to collect yearly bonuses. There is little point in trying to sell a policy which has been running for less than five years as it will fetch no more than its surrender value.

Unit-linked policies are unacceptable to Policy Portfolio, Policy Network and Beale Dobie. Foster & Cranfield say these policies are rarely auctioned.

Unlike with-profit policies, they have no bonuses attached and are worth only what the underlying investments in the

units are worth on the day that they are sold. It should be as quick to sell on a suitable policy as it is to surrender it. But some of the gain made on the sale above the surrender value will go in charges.

Policy Network, for example, charges 6.5 per cent to sellers who approach directly, but can take as much as 12.5 per cent if sellers come via a broker as the broker earns a 3 per cent commission.

Foster & Cranfield charges one third of the difference between surrender value and

Neglected unit trust watchdog hunts for wrongs to put right

By Barbara Ellis

THE unit trust ombudsman, Mr Adrian Parsons, has plunged into what looks like a desperate battle to save his office from extinction at the hands of the minority of unit trust companies supplying its funds.

With a case load reportedly struggling to reach a double-digit figure this year, Mr Parsons admits that he needs to attract more complaints, as well as to persuade more unit trust companies to join the ombudsman scheme. So far, only 60 out of a possible 160 have joined.

His latest strategy has been to express great willingness to take on cases that other complaints procedures would immediately reject.

Most notably, Mr Parsons says that he will consider

complaints arising before the establishment of his bureau in October, 1988, and will consider claims for loss of investment value.

In unit trust terms, this amounts to opening floodgates. By far the largest number of unit trust complaints in recent years centred around the crash of October, 1987, and most involved a fall in the value of an investment.

"I think we can look into loss of investment value if the salesman promised that there would be considerable growth or a certain income," said Mr Parsons.

"I would never say someone should receive compensation just because the value had gone down, only if they had been misled or badly advised."

Mr Ian O'Brien, the ombudsman's assistant, points out that this year's largest award - £20,000 - went to a unit-holder who lost money in the 1987 crash after a portfolio management company put what it later acknowledged was too much of his investment into unit trusts.

Mr Parsons said that he would not be able to deal with complaints about independent intermediaries. These would have to be passed to Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, which rejects any complaints arising before the July, 1988, implementation of the Financial Services Act.

At present, the ombudsman passes between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of the com-



Seeking a role: Adrian Parsons, trust watchdog

plaints he receives to Fimbra and the investment referee it shares with the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation.

Mr Parsons, however, insists that the only time restriction in his terms of reference is that there must be no more than six months between the final letter from a unit trust company rejecting a claim and the unit-holder's complaint to him.

He adds that people who have missed this deadline could easily write to the company again and bring the complaint "back into time."

"It is my idea that it could be done," he says. "No one has done it, but who says what is the final answer? Anyone who really had their wits about them would produce a new point, so that the company could not just refer back to a past rejection."

In his attempts to expand his complaints base, Mr Parsons says that he is willing to take on additional work "in an analogous field," by which he means the unit trusts' old enemy, investment trusts, assuming they are allowed to start selling off the page and

cold-calling customers, as recently proposed by the Securities and Investment Board.

"If anything like that did take place, and there were scope for someone to keep a balance between the consumer and the company producing the investment product, naturally I would not say no to the suggestion," he said, adding that the decision would rest with the board of the insurance ombudsman's bureau, which also oversees the unit trust ombudsman.

Mr David Glasgow, of Kleinwort Benson, a member of the insurance ombudsman's board, said that it was working hard on finding a solution to Mr Parsons's dilemma.

"The problem is that it is costing companies to belong and there are other complaints procedures available that they have already paid for, so there is a financial disincentive to join," he said.

Mr Parsons remains optimistic. Lately, his office has been kept busy dealing with complaints about non-members, which have been taken also as an opportunity to sell the ombudsman scheme to those companies.

Hot line for trusts

By Lindsay Cook

A TELEPHONE dealing service for investment trusts is to be launched next month by Sharelink, a subsidiary of British Telecom.

The special investment trust line will make available all the 230 investment trusts to any of the 21 million telephone subscribers who want to buy or sell shares in investment trust companies.

Mr David Jones, the chief executive, said: "We are adding a very useful tool to investment trusts. It will enable investors to buy or sell anything from an investment trust warrant to an ordinary share."

The service will put investment trusts at an advantage to unit trusts, which are not available through a centralized dealing service and have higher initial charges.

the investment trust service should be lower than Sharelink's usual commission rates, which start at £17.50 a deal.

Sharelink, established in 1987, has more than 100,000 users of its private client service and claims that more than 750,000 people have used its services.

A spokeswoman for the Association of Investment Trust Companies said it received a large number of calls from investors asking about how to buy shares in trusts.

She said the association had been in talks with Sharelink and that a telephone dealing service would make investment trusts more "user friendly."

Sharelink also has plans to launch a telephone dealing service for personal equity plans, which will allow investors to select their own shares.

European first for Fleming

PRIVATE investors in Britain will have their first taste of a fund investing in smaller companies on the Continent next week. Robert Fleming has turned a unit trust based in Jersey into an investment trust registered in Britain, (Jon Ashworth writes).

Dealings in the Fleming European Fledgling Investment Trust, previously limited to institutions and private investors living abroad, are due to start on Tuesday. It will issue shares and warrants to acquire £40 million worth of net assets in the Jersey fund, which has been trading since June 1987.

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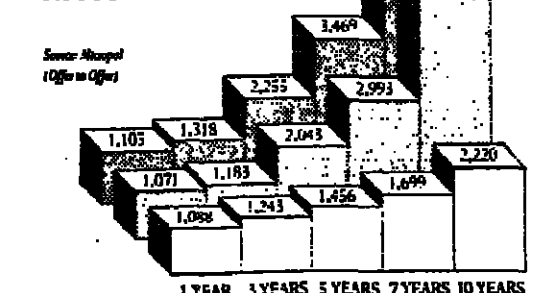
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Holiday from blame ends for tour groups

By Margaret Dibben

PACKAGE holidaymakers who have an accident quite unconnected with their holiday will soon be able to ask the tour operator for money and help in seeking compensation.

Even if the injury or illness is caused by somebody for whom the tour operator has no responsibility — such as a restaurant in another resort — the travel company must nevertheless help the holidaymaker sue the person, according to new rules.

If the tour operator's supplier — a hotel or a coach company — is at fault, the holidaymaker can sue the tour operator directly through the British courts.

The new rules are part of a revised code of conduct for tour operators which are members of the Association of British Travel Agents. The code is designed to anticipate a directive from the European Commission now being considered by Brussels.

The changes apply to any holiday booked from brochures for skiing and winter sun holidays starting from November 1, although some tour operators have included them with this summer's brochures.

Mr Keith Betton, public affairs manager for ABTA, admitted they were surprised that tour operators agreed to take responsibility for accidents which were beyond their control. He said: "Under our code, tour operators are no longer allowed to disclaim responsibility. If it is one of their suppliers, then they must take on the responsibility, even if it was not their fault."

He added: "If you went in to



a restaurant down the road from your hotel which was totally unconnected with the holiday or the tour operator and bad food made you ill, so long as you can link the evidence with the restaurant, you can go to your tour operator and ask for financial assistance to sue the restaurant."

Mr Martin Brackenbury, a director of Thomson Travel, said: "In the past, there have been disputes arising between clients and operators as to whether or not something that they did was something which was recommended by us or not. To overcome the problem, we have to identify as precisely as we can those items which are part of the package. But we will assist with a personal injury claim if it arises outside the description of the package."

ABTA's aim is to make tour operators more responsible for monitoring the local firms they use.

It also hopes that suppliers will be more careful knowing that, rather than tourists complaining to them, it will be

the tour operators trying to recoup compensation paid out to customers.

Until now, if a holidaymaker tripped over an hotel's frayed carpet and broke a leg, the tour operator could deny responsibility and leave the customer to sort it out with the hotel manager. Now, if someone ruined a coat by sitting on a dirty coach seat while transferring from the airport to the hotel, the tour operator must help reclaim the cost of the damage.

But tour operators will be able to refuse if they do not believe the customer has a good case.

In theory they can pay up if the tourist is claiming because he has no holiday insurance to fall back on. In practice, tour operators usually insist that customers have insurance before they leave, although this does not always have to be their own package product.

The ABTA code says that tour operators must provide up to £5,000 per booking for initial legal fees. But they are allowed to reclaim the cost from holidaymakers who have

legal expenses insurance. Consequently, many tour operators are including legal expenses insurance as part of the package insurance which they sell through brochures. Other tour operators have taken a block policy for customers.

Legal expenses insurance provides up to £5,000 worth of advice, guidance and financial help per person for pursuing a claim against someone unconnected with the tour operator.

Package holiday insurance is written by a few large insurance companies, including Norwich Union, Bishopsgate and Home & Overseas, which is part of Eagle Star. The legal expenses element is provided by specialist insurance companies.

Mr Michael Jacobs, assistant general manager of Home & Overseas, said: "The basic legal expenses cover allows a person to pursue a claim for compensation and damages for personal injury against third parties, provided you have a valid claim, but not against the travel agent or tour operator."

If you want to sue the tour operator for the negligence of one of his suppliers, you have to pay for this yourself. But it is easier to pursue a claim against the holiday company in the British courts than to seek compensation from a foreign hotelier or coach company.

Holidaymakers starting a summer holiday after May 1 have new protection as well. Tour operators must reply promptly to correspondence after a holiday or they could be fined up to £200 by ABTA.

When a payout is not a dividend

By Lindsay Cook

SHAREHOLDERS in the Rights and Issues Investment Trust had their dividend cheques returned marked "ONTP" at the beginning of the month, with no explanation being offered.

One of the 850 shareholders telephoned Discretionary Unit Fund Managers, but could not get an answer, so he contacted Family Money.

He has held shares for more than 20 years and never before has a bank refused to pay the dividend warrant.

He did not even know that the initials stood for "Ordered Not To Pay".

He said: "I have never heard of such a thing. I look on the dividend warrant as cash. I could have spent it with dire consequences."

A spokesman for Discretionary Unit Fund Managers said the trust's registrars had made an error in paying the final dividend on March 31.

It had included both the interim and final dividend, a total of 6.5p per share, instead of the 4.5p that was due.

The spokesman said: "We only found out when the letters were posted out and the best course was to put a stop on all the cheques."

"By now, everyone involved should have received a letter explaining the mistake and enclosing a replacement cheque. They have been told that any bank charges incurred because of the mistake will be refunded."

He added: "It was purely an administrative error. Some of our shareholders have the dividends mandated to their banks."

"The banks contacted the clients when the payment was stopped, but have not contacted them to tell them the replacement cheque has been sent. We've had to make a few telephone calls to the banks."

He could not say how many of the investors are private shareholders and how many are institutional investors.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for City Gate Registrars, a company based in Bolton, Greater Manchester, stressed: "We will meet the costs of any compensation for charges incurred by the shareholders."

Miss Lesley Renvoise of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, said: "Investment trust companies must provide the aftercare which small shareholders will need."

She added that the association had been contacted on Tuesday this week by a shareholder who had still not received his replacement dividend.

For the last five years, AITC has been working to attract more individual investors by promoting investment trust savings schemes, which allow people to invest small sums regularly.

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The braille or large print statements will be sent out a few days after the ordinary ones. Customers wanting to receive them should telephone the number at the top of their statements.

Mr Peter Griffiths, head of

customer services at Barclaycard, said: "At present, blind and partially-sighted cardholders are forced to ask family or friends to read their statements for them. Now they will have the same degree of privacy as sighted customers."

Last month, Barclaycard installed a special terminal which allows its staff to communicate with deaf customers using a normal telephone line.

Banks already provide braille current account statements for customers who request them.

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FAMILY MONEY

LETTERS

Shelter for inheritance

Sir, I was surprised recently to be told by a solicitor that we could each assign part of the value of our house to our daughter and do so in instalments of £3,000 each for a given number of years.

Thus, over a period of say 10 years, we could assign £30,000. No money would change hands, and the transaction would be on paper in the form of a legal document, duly signed, witnessed and sealed. We would remain in beneficial occupation of the property and we would not be paying rent for the part value assigned.

I know that we can make annual tax free gifts of £3,000 each to our daughter (and £3,000 each on marriage), but I have always thought that this

usually refers to gifts of cash. Frankly, I am still doubtful and I wonder what specialist advice you can offer on this particular point.

Yours sincerely,
D.A.G.
North Yorkshire.

It is certainly possible under property law to transfer a part of the value of your house in the way that you suggest. Obviously care would have to be taken in drafting the necessary documentation.

However, your proposal would not be effective for inheritance tax purposes as it would constitute what is known technically as a "gift with reservation".

Because you and your wife would continue to live in the

house, the gifts would not be unencumbered and would not therefore count as a reduction in your estates.

If, however, you and your wife paid rent to your daughter for the continued occupation of each £3,000 portion after it was made over, there would be no reservation attaching to the original gift of that portion and it would be immediately exempt from inheritance tax.

Fixing the market rent applicable to each portion would need specialist advice to avoid challenge by the Revenue.

A more straightforward way in which you might overcome this problem would be for you and your wife to gift the whole property to your daughter and then to pay her rent while you continue to live in it. Again,

this would have to be a full market rent and you might find this unacceptable.

Another way forward could be for you and your wife to revise your wills so that each of you leaves his or her half share to your daughter.

After the first death, ownership of the house would then be shared between the surviving spouse and your daughter.

There would need to be an understanding that your daughter would allow the survivor to continue to live in the house so long as he or she wished. This could lead to potential difficulties in the future which you might prefer to avoid.

This is a potential minefield of legal and tax difficulty and specialist professional advice is essential.

Tax inequality

From Mr E. Broadwell
Sir, My recommendation to Mrs I Christopher (Letters April 7) is to hang on in there. When her husband dies, not only will she be entitled to the full married couple's allowance for the year in which he dies, but also for the following year.

As a recent widower, however, there is no such luck for me in my post-bereavement tax year. The loss of my dear wife is just as great as any widow's husband, but the taxman decides otherwise. Yet another discriminatory situation, this time making women more equal.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BROADWELL,
The Spinney,
Little Shire,
Skielagh,
East Yorkshire.

Paying a price for paying in at bank

By Our Family Money Staff

BANKING is usually a free business for customers who keep their accounts in credit. But paying money in through another bank's branch is quite another matter, as customers of National Westminster Bank have discovered.

NatWest charges even its own customers a flat fee of £2 for paying a bill in cash. Most banks charge non-customers for using their facilities, but draw the line at charging their own account holders.

A NatWest spokeswoman said it made the charge because so many people tried to pass themselves off as customers. "Most of them say they are customers because they think they will not be charged."

Because of this, we charge anyone paying a bill in cash. The bank said 99 per cent of people who paid in cash were non-customers.

When it comes to paying bills by giro credit, the NatWest fee is £3 to non-customers paying in this way.

Barclays charges customers of other banks £2 for counter credits, which include paying gas or electricity bills through their branches. It costs £3 to pay a cheque in to someone else's accounts, or to settle non-domestic bills like Access or Visa statements. Midland charges non-customers £2 for giro credits. Lloyds charges £1.

The Royal Bank of Scotland charges non-customers £1 for paying money in, but there is a long list of exceptions. There is no fee for Access and Royal Bank Visa holders, nor for paying electricity bills.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

Item	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sunday
1	+7	+4	+6	+2			
2	+4	+2	+5	+1			
3	+5	+2	+3	+2			
4	+9	+3	+5	+1			
5	+6	+2	+2	+1			
6	+3	+3	+3	+2			
7	+2	+5	+1	+4			
8	+8	+3	+5	+1			
9	+7	+3	+1	+1			
10	+1	+6	+2	+4			
11	+2	+3	+3	+3			
12	+6	+5	+2	+1			
13	+1	+4	+2	+4			
14	+4	+2	+4	+1			
15	+5	+4	+8	+1			
16	+6	+2	+1	+2			
17	+6	+4	+7	+1			
18	+7	+2	+2	+2			
19	+5	+2	+3	+1			
20	+7	+5	+5	+1			
21	+5	+2	+1	+3			
22	+4	+2	+4	+1			
23	+2	+3	+1	+4			
24	+4	+1	+3	+1			
25	+6	+5	+6	+1			
26	+6	+2	+2	+3			
27	+1	+4	+1	+3			
28	+5	+3	+5	+1			
29	+5	+3	+5	+2			
30	+4	+2	+5	+1			
31	+6	+1	+3	+2			
32	+4	+2	+4	+1			
33	+1	+3	+2	+5			
34	+7	+3	+6	+1			
35	+7	+5	+5	+1			
36	+1	+6	+3	+4			
37	+4	+1	+3	+2			
38	+1	+4	+3	+6			
39	+7	+2	+1	+3			
40	+1	+3	+1	+3			
41	+5	+4	+5	+2			
42	+5	+3	+3	+1			
43	+1	+3	+2	+5			
44	+5	+3	+3	+2			

YOUR MONEY & HOW TO KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

Your house, your furniture, your car — everything you own — is vulnerable to tax on your death. If the total value is over £128,000 and you haven't taken the correct steps, the tax man — not your family — could have the first claim on your estate.

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Transferring benefits

From Mr Paul R. Rawson
Sir, I understand that business expansion scheme investments must be held for five years (or five years from granting of BES certificate) if the gain at disposal is to be free of capital gains tax.

I also understand that any transfer of security (eg. stocks and shares) to one's wife or husband will be at original value as adjusted for indexation. I have been an active investor in BES since 1984 and am currently planning to transfer under-valued securities to my wife in order that she may make use of the £5,000 exemption in 1990-91 and subsequent years.

This gives rise to a question. Can a BES investment be transferred to one's wife be-

fore five years have expired and still retain the CGT benefit?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL R. RAWSON,
Springwood,
Alderm,
Cheshire.

I would like to clarify one point of general application. The capital gains tax exemption to which you refer at the beginning of your letter only applies to the first disposal (outside the five-year period) of business expansion scheme shares issued after March 18, 1986.

For disposals of shares, which do not qualify for the exemption because they were issued before March 19, 1986, any chargeable gain is computed by reference to the

original cost on issue (ie without taking account of any income tax relief allowed) plus the usual allowance for indexation.

The same rule applies to shares disposed of during the five-year period when there will also be the income tax clawback to take into account.

Subject to this, the legislation is designed to ensure that BES investments may be transferred from husband to wife or vice versa without any tax penalty at that point and, in particular, without jeopardizing the CGT exemption.

The transferee spouse is treated for all practical purposes as stepping into the shoes of the transferor. Thus the answer to your question is yes.

Driving down the cheapest routes to green card travel

By Jon Ashworth

GREEN cards have become a key ingredient of travel kits for motorists taking a trip to the Continent. But such cover notes can add £20 or more to the holiday bill — with a few exceptions.

Guardian, Royal Exchange and Commercial Union issue free green cards for motor policyholders visiting Europe. GRE makes no charge for the card for trips of up to three months. Commercial Union waives the charge for 31 days.

Royal Insurance has followed the trend by offering free green cards for up to 35 days.

It has also improved its second-year, no-claim discount and introduced new discounts for policyholders who restrict cover to named drivers.

Green card cover is not essential in the European

Community since any car insured in Britain is automatically covered to the minimum standard abroad.

But the cover is a good idea, since the minimum level of insurance on the Continent is often well below even third-party cover in Britain.

Green cards upgrade British policies to give the same level of protection in European countries. They also come in handy as proof of insurance abroad.

The largest motor insurers, Norwich Union, General Accident and Sun Alliance, charge extra for green card cover.

A weekend trip will cost £10 for a typical family saloon insured comprehensively with Norwich Union. For trips of up to 17 days, the premium costs £20. The same cover costs £17 for drivers with over

three years' no claim discount. The same cover with Sun Alliance costs £11 for five days and £18 for up to 17 days.

General Accident charges £21 for larger cars, but Scottish General Drivers' Club, its subsidiary, throws in a month's cover for £5.

Legal & General throws in free access to an emergency rescue service and a free motoring guide to policyholders who take out a green card.

But there are no concessions on the card itself, which typically costs £15 for longer journeys.

The 31-page guide contains advice on documents, insurance and driving laws on the Continent. The rescue package includes breakdown and accident assistance. Legal and medical expenses are also covered.

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Value of Lloyd awarded in the month of May Recovery Fund on 31 May 1995, with Gross Income recovered			
Year ended	NAV	RECOVERY	NAV
31 Mar '69	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1970	£2,886	£1,816	£1,000
1975	£1,816	£1,816	£1,000
1980	£1,816	£1,816	£1,000
1985	£1,816	£1,816	£1,000
30 MAR 90	£88,240	£88,240	£88,240

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- DRINK: THE TIMES SPRING WINE OFFER
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- SHOPPING: HOW GREEN THE LABELS?

THE TIMES

REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY APRIL 21 1990

Clearing the name of a lifeboat 'cheat'

A stubborn legend of injustice has surrounded the man who claims to have invented the lifeboat. Now, as Brian James reports, the myth may be put to rest

Two hundred years ago the collier Adventure was caught between the twin perils of the Black Midden rocks and the Herd Sand shoals, which guard the mouth of the Tyne. For two days, while relatives and friends watched helplessly from a few hundred yards away, the ship fought against the gale which pressed her inexorably to her end.

The Master, Strachan, and seven Perished, the local Chronicle reported. "To see the poor Sufferers fleeing from Mast to Mast," it added, "would have melted an adamant heart."

So, indeed, would the sequel, which became a tale of intrigue and jealousy, of shipwrecking and the bosun's lash, and the rivalry of two much-contrasting men worthy of the best sort of bad Victorian writing, to be unfolded in full only now.

The Adventure tragedy on that Sunday morning in March 1789, the latest of many at the northern end of a sea lane which was the M1 of its day, prompted action. A self-appointed committee of Tyne shipowners and gentry, meeting at Lawes House coffee-room, offered a reward of two guineas for a "Plan of a Boat, capable of containing 24 Persons and calculated to go through a very shoal, heavy broken Sea. The Intention of it being to preserve the Lives of Seamen, from Ships coming ashore in hard gales of Wind".

In July 1789, the committee decided no entry met this need, and that the two guineas award would not be paid. Instead, it offered one guinea "compensation for his trouble" to the maker of an unusual boat, William Wouldhave, a South Shields handyman.

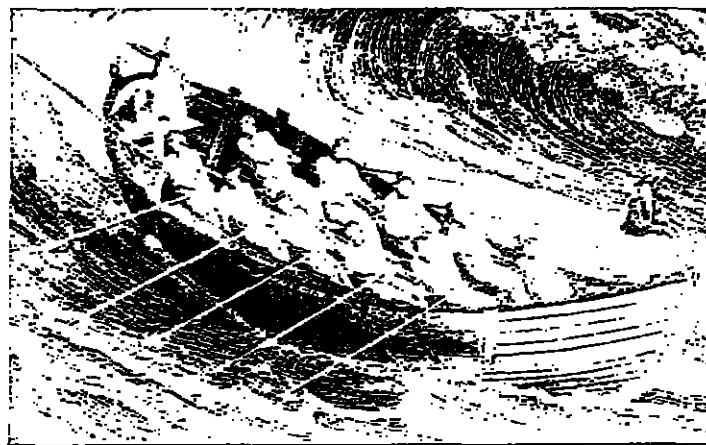
In Wouldhave's later words: "They offered me a guinea, as they said, because I was Second. Then said I, 'Gentlemen, who is First?' There was no reply. I took the Guinea and gave it to Mr Teasdale [a committee member] saying, 'Set this to my account, for I do not mean to pocket this'."

Wouldhave's words, springing from the stiff-backed independence of South Shields men, have rung down the years in Geordie lore. But if his rejection was sad, worse followed. The committee commissioned Henry Greathead, a rival who was also said to have submitted a model, though no details remain, to build a lifeboat to their suggestion.

That boat, when unveiled amid shocked whispers, was claimed to incorporate all the best features of Wouldhave's design. None the less, and surely against all justice, Greathead went on to become famous as The Inventor of the Original, was rewarded handsomely by parliament, even given diamonds by foreign royalty.

Wouldhave died in poverty. The incident has been sustained by bitter legend, found in often-garish form in locally killed porcelain mugs and plaques, busts of the "cheated inventor" to fill municipal niches and, most famously, as a subject for the eminent Victorian painter Ralph Hedley, who portrayed Wouldhave and his boat bathed in the beatific golden light of inspired genius.

It is a marvellous and melodramatic tale which suffers only from being, in those details which prove Wouldhave The Wronged Man, and cast Greathead as his Cheat, almost entirely wrong. The truth emerges at the 200th anniversary of the launching of Greathead's Original - which marks the birth, too, of Britain's coast-long tradition of self-sac-



Heroism: a Greathead-derived lifeboat battles through raging seas (above) to aid a dismasted brig straining at anchor off Sunderland harbour. Painting (circa 1840) by John Wilson Carmichael. Dejection: William Wouldhave (far left), who claimed to have invented the first purpose-built lifeboat, and his model. Painting (circa 1890) by Ralph Hedley. Fame: Henry Greathead (centre), who is credited with designing the first lifeboat, the Original (left), which needed 10 oarsmen to power it through heavy seas.

rice which both preceded and then flowed from the formation in 1824 of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, whose volunteers, at last count, have saved more than 118,000 lives.

New evidence has been produced as a result of detective work by Adrian Osler, a senior museum officer in Newcastle and a specialist in maritime history.

Given the task of setting up the Original bicentenary celebration, he began by "being suspicious of the Wouldhave legend. Why? Because boats aren't invented. They evolve. No one leapt from a bath yelling 'Eureka' because he had just dreamed up the coracle. That probably started as a raft."

Mr Osler found, at once, that many of the claims for Wouldhave, such as that he had suggested the use of cork in the construction in an attempt to create a self-righting capability, were nonsense. "Greathead had cork in his design. But he did not get it from Wouldhave, cork had been patented by another man four years before. Self-righting? Not in Greathead's design, nor in any other lifeboat for another 60 years. And Wouldhave wanted a metal boat. A great idea, but years before its time. Greathead built in wood." Mr Osler grew more

convinced when he left aside the boats and began to delve into the men's lives. Greathead's was often lurid; here indeed was a character fit for a G.A. Henty adventure story. A Yorkshireman, Greathead sailed from the Tyne in 1778, and was soon shipwrecked in Calais. Another ship took him to the Caribbean. He was on his way to Nova Scotia at the time of the American War of Independence when his ship was captured by a privateer. He was freed in a prisoner exchange, and promptly pressed into the Royal Navy.

Several warships later, after taking part in sea battles, witnessing the infamous incident when the Americans captured and hanged a senior British officer, and being given two dozen lashes for drunkenness, Greathead came back to the Tyne to begin work as a boatbuilder.

"A hectic seagoing life," Mr Osler says. "But the significance of it is this: during those years Greathead would have seen scores of different sorts of everyday boats: we know he saw them used to land prisoners and take off refugees from the shore in the American war, saw them used to carry cargo through the surf in the West Indies. It is no coincidence that the curved keel of his

Original, which caused such controversy, is an exact copy of the Moses Boat, used extensively in the Caribbean."

Mr Osler's research pointed to the solution of another mystery: where did Greathead get the money to begin boatbuilding? "He came out of the Navy with nothing; I saw the records of his purchases on board ship. He had little left from his 30 shillings (£1.50p) monthly wage." But Mr Osler also found, at Lloyd's, a clear hint that a Henry Greathead had been rewarded after he had "assisted in detecting a peculiarly impudent case of fraudulent stranding". Mr Osler thinks it is likely that "spilling the beans" to Lloyd's about his own shipwreck in France, one of the frequent incidents of deliberate wrecking, had earned Greathead his start-up capital.

But it was Greathead's letters to the Duke of Northumberland, his patron for the building of a second lifeboat, that persuaded Mr Osler that Greathead's designs were all his own work. "These letters discussed modifications as they occurred to him, or as he saw them necessary. Remember, this was an entirely new concept: a boat that did not have to find room for nets, fish, cargo or ferry-passengers; the first boat that had only one standard to meet: its sea-keeping."

The correspondence showed Greathead to be a man of intelligence and ingenuity, with a flexible mind and the ability to adapt. He was just the sort of man with the skills and imagination to pull together all he had seen or heard about small boats - and assemble, rather than invent, the principles of the Original.

These letters, Mr Osler says, also showed a man who "knew his place, but also very much knew his value. He could have lived as happily in the 1990s as the 1790s: he was a dedicated self-publicist, a media man. In the newspaper reports of the time, his own phrases and descriptions frequently occur word for word, particularly after that day in January 1790 when the Original, 'designed by H. Greathead', saved its first life. You don't need two guesses to know who was first on the papers with that tip". As a result, by the early 19th century

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Romantic heroine of the shipwreck

BY the 1830s the national network of Greathead lifeboats was becoming less effective. Funds for maintenance were frequently unavailable and organization was often haphazard, except on the north-east coast, where the life-saving service was maintained.

Then, in 1838, the exploits of Grace Darling helped revive public interest in lifeboats. One September night, the passenger steamship Forfarshire, on a journey from the Humber to Dundee, was driven in stormy seas on to Great Harcar Rock, off the Farne Islands. At first light Grace, the 22-year-old daughter of the lighthouse keeper on Longstone island, spotted the wreck and alerted her father, William Darling. They could see a few survivors on the rock and, as there was no possibility of the mainland lifeboat putting to sea in such weather, they decided to set off in their own small rowing boat. On the first

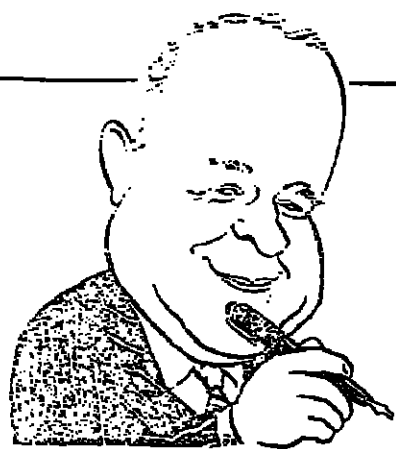


To the rescue: Grace Darling

trip, father and daughter rescued five people, and on a second journey, Mr Darling and two of the men who had just been rescued were able to bring four more of the ship's passengers to safety.

Grace became a national heroine, with reports of her bravery described lavishly in the newspapers. In gratitude, the public collected and gave her £700, which included £50 from Queen Victoria. Her death from consumption four years later added poignant durability to her status, and her picture was used extensively to advertise products such as chocolates, soaps and mustard. More importantly, she gave new impetus to the lifeboat service, and in 1850 a competition for a new lifeboat design was sponsored by Algonon, Duke of Northumberland. This produced the classic shape with covered areas at either end, which survived in principle for about 100 years.

Continued overleaf



THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

Desert mystic got the hump

At Easter I became a judge. Not, you understand, in the style of Judge Pickles or the "Girls-who-say-no-may-not-mean-it" man. No, I was following in the footsteps of Osbert Sitwell, Compton Mackenzie, Harold Nicholson, David Cecil, J. B. Priestley, V. S. Pritchett, L. P. Hartley, and John Betjeman.

In other words, I was judging the four 1989 editions of *The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street*, the staff magazine of the Bank of England.

Sitwell was the first adjudicator, back in 1950. Fortunately this lavish and lively quarterly is less concerned with the Exchange Rate Mechanism and the Floating Pound than with intriguing features entitled: "How to stretch an executive"; "Pop and rock"; "Gay all the Same"; "Teaching the Queen of Spain to Charleston"; and a profile of Lawrence of Arabia.

Here I was surprised that the author seems unaware of Lawrence's Bank of England near-connection.

In November 1934, Montagu Norman, Governor of the bank, conceived the idea that El Auren would make an excellent Secretary of the bank. Never having met Lawrence, Norman asked Francis Rodd, later Lord Rennell, to act as intermediary.

Lawrence refused the offer graciously but firmly, presumably on the grounds that it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a desert mystic to chain himself to a desk.

THERE'S always room on television for a new impressionist — Mike Yarwood, early Lenny Henry, Rory Bremner, Bobby Davro.

I am offering a new up-market one to BBC2 for one of those 30-minute slots so popular with exponents of the genre. Mind you, my star may be hard to persuade and he will not come cheap.

I found him at a Foyle's lunch. We had been celebrating Elena Salvoni's book about her life in Soho.

After lunch Keith Waterhouse and I withdrew to the Red Room at the Grosvenor House with Kingsley

Amis. Two large glasses of Calvados and Amis was flowing.

Undoubtedly his best impersonation is Enoch Powell (not many impressionists do Enoch). Intonation is perfect, the impromptu script is exact and erudite, and the whole thing is spiced by a dash of impatience with the subject.

Our new star then demonstrated that once you can "do" John Mortimer you can also do Lord Longford and Archbishop Runcie. One vocal key unlocks all three.

His only failure was Ralph Richardson, studied at second-hand. My advice to his producer is keep Amis off theatricals. There is too rich a vein of real people for him to explore.

ONE OF the great joys of Easter weekending at Hickstead, apart from Christopher Biggins' technicolour waistcoats and a fashion-conscious young father pondering "What shall I wear to push Arabella's pram?", was the healing presence of Sky Television.

Deprived of my own dish I have been starved of live Test cricket from the West Indies. Here was a chance to assess how much of Vivian Richards' irascible behaviour can be traced to his recent painful complaint.

There is ample precedent for calling it by its proper name. When he was Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin went into hospital for what the Foreign Office spokesman delicately described as "an internal operation".

Bevin was not pleased with this euphemism. He said bluntly: "Call it piles, lad."

Noel Coward was similarly frank and fascinated. He was operated on two days before rehearsals began for *This Year of Grace*.

He was furious when the papers called it "a minor operation" and declared: "If that were a minor operation, I should have been far happier with a Caesarean."

MICHAEL FRAYN has happened upon a highly original and generous way of trying out his new plays. *Look Look*, which opened at the Aldwych this week (starring Stephen Fry and Robin Bailey), is a departure from a sketch he wrote for a charity gala in which Bailey

appeared some time ago. However, Frayn's first venture into this method of development dates back to 1977.

On September 10 of that year, the Prince of Wales was guest of honour at a vast gala which Martin Tickner had arranged at Drury Lane. All the proceeds went to the Queen's Jubilee Appeal and the Combined Theatrical Charities Fund.

Distinguished playwrights were asked to contribute original sketches which had to have some connection, however distant, with a royal occasion.

Frayn's far-fetched entry in the programme reads: "A special Jubilee glimpse behind-the-scenes at the All Star Jubilee Touring Production of *Guess Who, Darling!*"

"The adaptors of this typically Ooh la la French farce into English from Georges Feynau's *Faut pas*

arroses les fleurs avec ça, ma petite! say they chose it for Jubilee year because it was first performed in Paris in 1865, just three years after Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee and exactly 112 years ago this November."

Directed by Eric Thompson it starred Edward Fox, Polly Adams, Dinsdale Landen, Patricia Routledge and Denis Quilley. It was a huge success.

The next morning the impresario Michael Codron rang Tickner and said he had heard how funny it was. Did Tickner think it would make a play?

"Certainly not," was Martin's reply.

Codron and Frayn disagreed. Removed from its period trappings, the sketch became the second act of Frayn's phenomenally successful farce, *Noises Off*.

Look Look, which did not receive

such a warm welcome at the Aldwych on Tuesday, pays more homage to the less commercial Pirandello and Franconi than to Feynau but, after a hit like *Noises Off*, who would not be tempted to try the same route again?

HERE'S a good game, invented as far as I know on the spur of the moment by Sandy Toksvig who appeared on a recent edition of *Loose Ends*.

There must be a correct grammatical term for it but if there is I don't know it, so I call it Miss-Matches. I think it started because Ms Toksvig objected to being called a sex-kitten and didn't think the two words went logically together.

Five minutes in *The George* after the show provided a fair crop of Miss-Matches. How about BBC Enterprises, Belgian Celebrity, Poor Andrew Lloyd Webber and Military Intelligence?

The engaging Emo Phillips suggested Coleslaw and Radiator, which is surreal but not quite in the spirit of the game.

Later Ms Toksvig had to justify her final contribution — Channel Television. Apparently she actually appeared on Channel Television some time back and had found a cameraman who was in a state of high excitement.

"We're breaking into drama next year," he boasted.

She was sympathetic: "Are you thrilled?"

"Well, not really. The other cameraman's doing it."



PETER McKAY

If I were...

If I were Dan Dare, I would be concerned about the publicity antics of Fleetway Publications who publish *Eagle*, the comic in which my adventures have appeared on and off for 40 years. First they decide I should have a wife, none other than Professor Jocelyn Peabody, my devoted scientific assistant. All for no other reason than to excite the prurient attention of newspapers. It is neither sensible nor decent to turn an interplanetary agent of justice into a family man, far less to burden him with a spouse who — prior to this unlikely metamorphosis — was engaged in sound, scientific work. Now they announce I have become a vegetarian and will wear a vulgar "combat suit" instead of my smart RAF-style uniform.

More ominously still, they have decreed that my inter-planetary activities should be focused on environmental problems. Are they turning Colonel Dan Dare into a figure of fun? If so, who is behind the plot? It requires no great stretch of the imagination to perceive that a stunt like this could only have emanated from one, large, green head — and I do not mean green in its new environmental sense.

The life of a comic character is never easy. We are slaves to the whims of writers and artists. Yet I think it important that my traditional qualities of bravery, steadfastness and patriotism are not watered-down with mushy ideas about international peace and



... Dan Dare

brotherhood. If the environment is under threat from nuclear waste, so be it; but let us be clear about the source of this and other evils. I refer of course to The Mekon. My long war with this fiend cannot be diluted by fashionable tomfoolery about the fouling of planets.

My pipe has been removed, an obvious oiling-up to the anti-smoking lobby. No doubt there is also a plan to make me eat muesli for breakfast. They may even involve me in namby-pamby charity work, warning nippers about the dangers of smoking cigarettes. Any action which blurs the clarity of my public image merely adds to the status and power of my enemies.

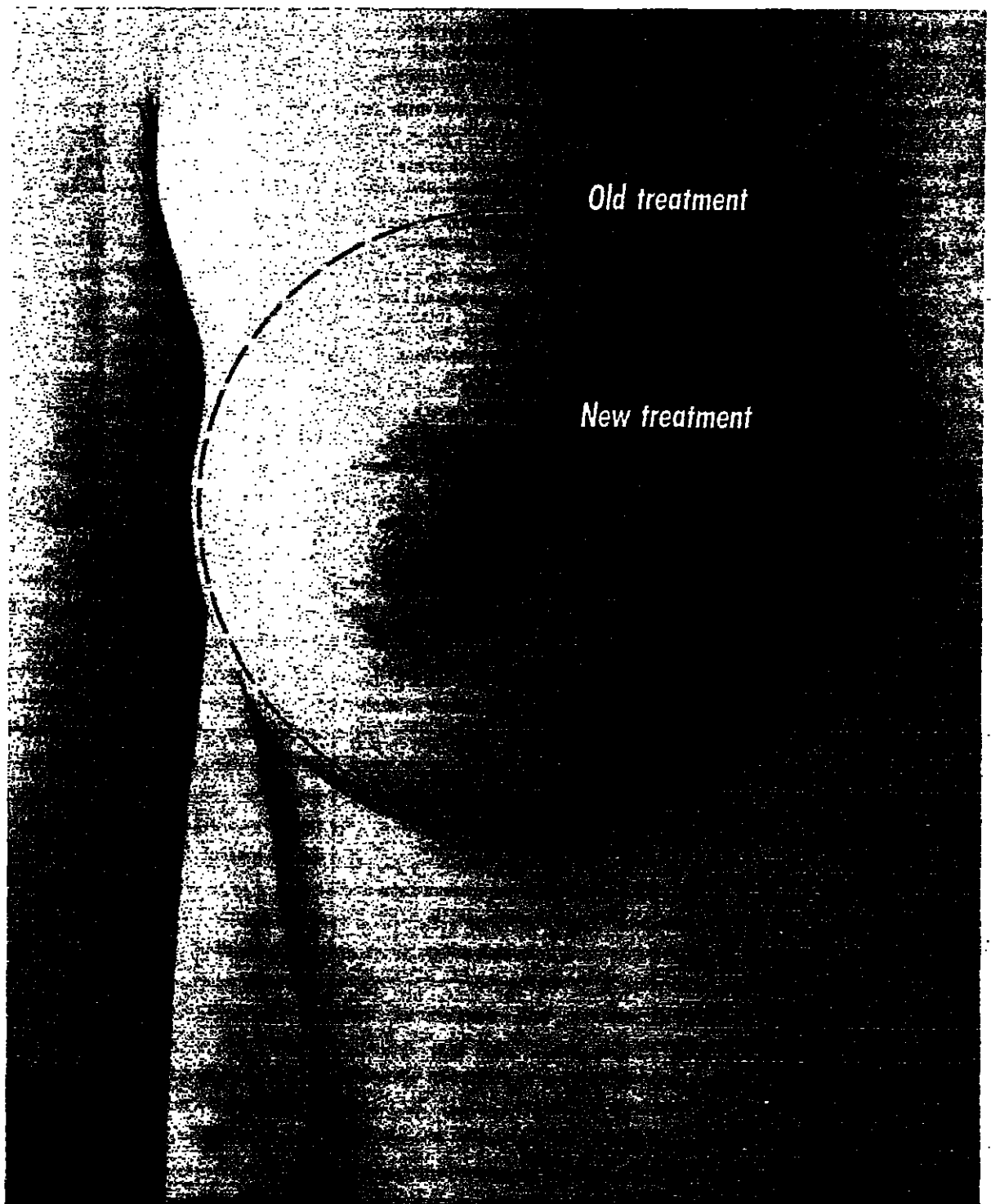
My chief problem is the idea that somehow I have "dated" and all the fine things for which I stand — truth, courage, steadfastness etc — are the stock-in-trade of every mocking comedian Johnny. The so-called editor of the *Eagle*, Barrie Tomlinson, said: "Dan Dare was always the traditional British stiff upper lip type but that image is being updated. These days children want stories to be more true to life."

Poppycock. Children want no such thing. Publishers want it because this stuff is easier to write and "accessible" to a wider audience. A great character — I think 40 years at the top says something about a chap — never falls victim to fashion. When small boys become absorbed by Dan Dare they enter a world of clear-cut certainty. There will be plenty of time later to indulge in adult compromise. Mired in endless quarrels with their womenfolk, they will recall with pleasure their uncomplicated days with Dan Dare.

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woman with
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The most common form of cancer in women.
One woman in every twelve is likely to
suffer from breast cancer. Until now the treatment
has involved major surgery which, unavoidably,
leaves scars. Physical and mental. That's why a
new technique pioneered by the Imperial Cancer
Research Fund's breast cancer unit at Guy's
Hospital is of such crucial importance.
Some women will still need a mastectomy. But

for an ever-growing number of patients, localised
surgery can be used to remove the lump instead
of the whole breast.
Heartening news for every woman. And for
that matter their nearest and dearest. Just as
encouraging is the fact that more and more
cancer centres nationwide can now offer similar
techniques thanks to the widespread sharing
of information and ideas.



Old treatment

New treatment

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has been at
the forefront in much work that has led to
a number of equally critical advances. Without
doubt lives have been saved and certain
cancers that at one time seemed incurable, aren't.
However, there is still much to be done.
As for the future.

It's our belief that it's now a question of when
cancer is cured, not if. But all our work is funded
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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Can pre-preschool tangerine-peeling classes and dawn-to-dusk schooling produce Japan's next generation of leaders? Joe Joseph reports



What most Japanese children do after a day at school is go to another school, which probably teaches them an awful lot about plankton and the annual rainfall in Chile, but does not leave very much time for running and jumping.

A country that chooses rice as its staple food and chopsticks as the implement with which to eat it, is a country that is not hungry for an easy life. But does dawn-to-dusk education show how keen and bright Japanese children are? Or is there something wrong if regular school hours are not enough to produce Japan's next generation of Toyota engineers?

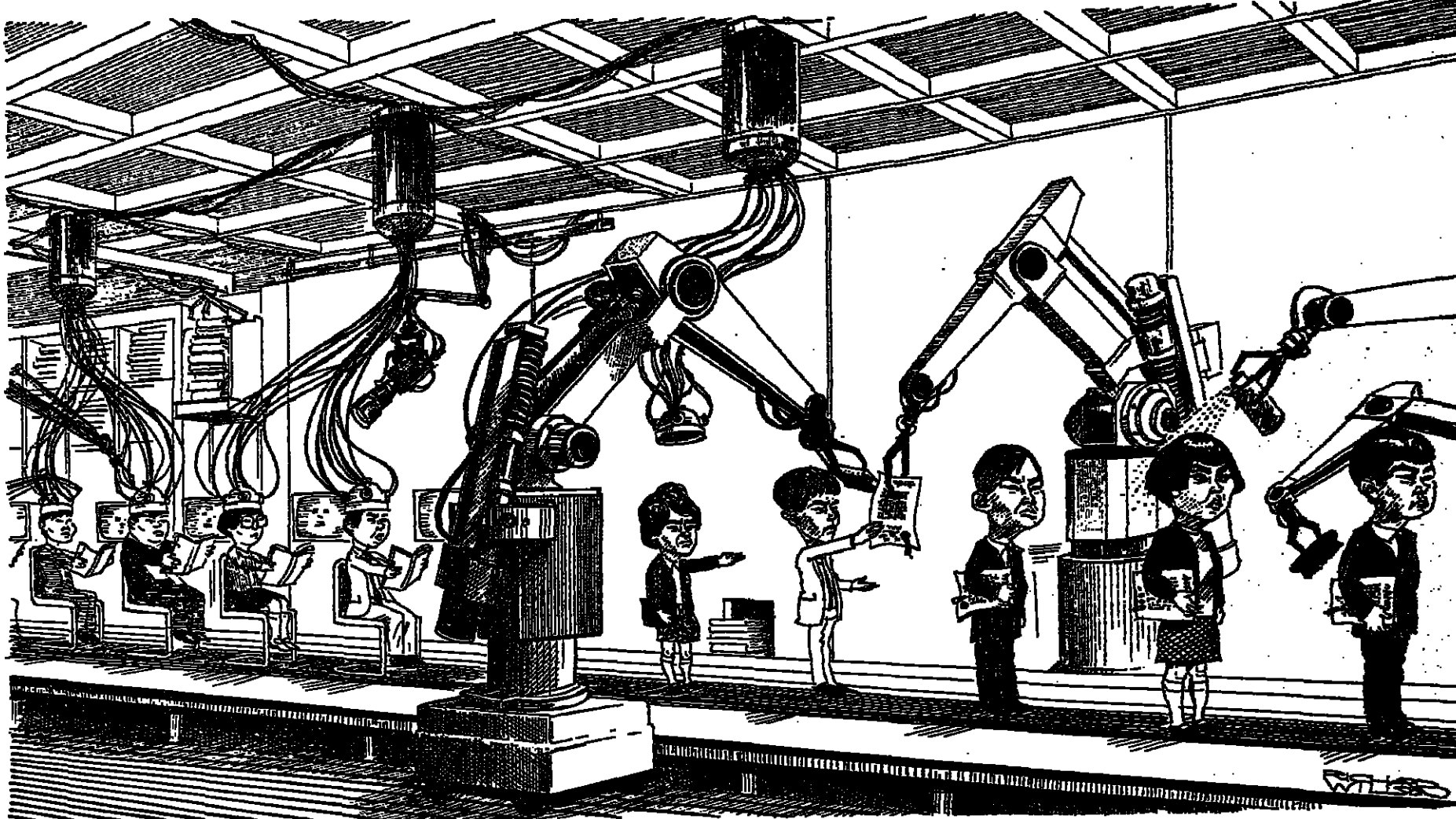
The United States still manages to produce some of the world's liveliest brains, even though high school education has become more or less optional in many of its inner cities. And you do not have to be in the real world for long before you twig that, outside the classroom, securing a table at a good restaurant impresses people more than reciting rainfall figures for any Latin American state you care to name.

Even Japan is beginning to wonder whether an education system that prizes facts even more highly than Dickens's Mr Gradgrind, and exam success above everything, is the best way to produce leaders who can run the world's newest superpower and explain Japan's views to allies who sometimes still find "the Japanese way" as mysterious as the Milky Way.

Now the Japanese government — whose education ministry bureaucrats dream of "the ideal Japanese" who is diffident, accommodating and thinks of Japan first, second and third — has joined parents and educationalists in wondering how Japan can break the grim habit of forcing children to spend hours after school at yet another school. It is a timetable that produces a 99.7 per cent literacy rate, but makes family life virtually impossible.

While government leaders in the US and parts of Europe are calling for a little less *laissez-faire* in the classroom to repair the cracks in their children's knowledge, Japan's education machine looks enviable. Talk of any kind of crisis in education here makes many foreigners gawp in disbelief.

Japan's scientists produce some pretty swanky microchips. The country's business acumen is evident in its trade figures. Shop assistants in Tokyo do not reach for a pocket calculator to tot up two 100-yen purchases, as they



All work and no play

might in London or New York. More than 95 per cent of Japanese children go to school until the age of 18. Then 37 per cent carry on swotting at university or go on to some other form of tertiary education.

But young children in Japan, often out until 10 or 11 every night at one of the country's 35,000 crammers, are suffering from the same stresses as office executives. Like their parents, they are complaining of sleeplessness and muscular tension. Unlike their fathers, they cannot wind down with a whisky and geisha.

In 1988, the latest year for which figures are available, 603 children committed suicide in Japan: 86 of them were younger than 14. Police reckon that between a quarter and a half of those suicides were the result of educational pressure: the children had failed an exam, were ashamed at not living up to their parents' hopes, maybe just got behind with

their homework. Suddenly, for these children, the life cycle of plankton and the amount of rainfall in Chile no longer seemed that important.

The education ministry has concluded that there is too much pressure on students, that school rules are too rigorous, that there is too much emphasis on cramming and learning everything parrot-fashion, and that children are, to put it simply, not getting enough out of life.

A new ministry white paper claims that Japanese children rarely have a chance for such enjoyment as "coming into contact with nature, feeling awe and respect for life, experiencing the importance of hard work, and learning from difficulties". In non-Japanese, this means that spending all your formative years in a classroom has its drawbacks.

Ask any Japanese and you will hear complaint after complaint about the Darwinian struggle that

begins at pre-kindergarten age. At the same time, every parent knows he or she is not powerful enough alone to break a system in which the right school leads to the right job (still usually for life), which carries the sort of social cachet and financial benefits that could well lead to finding the right spouse.



"This is my first baby, and I didn't know how to play with her or help her develop," says Emi Saito, a 30-year-old mother who takes her six-month-old daughter to a pre-preschool establishment in Tokyo. At another pre-nursery crammer, The Growing Bud in Tokyo, headmaster Hideo Ohori says: "The institute operates for babies of one year or older, developing their curiosity through tangerine-peeling or collecting snow."

Well, you can certainly understand why a mother might quiver at the responsibility of guiding her own children through tangerine-peeling and decide to hand them over to Mr Ohori.

When these children grow out of their nappies and fed up with tangerines, their mothers will continue to do their best to secure a place in a good school by helping them with their homework. This help might consist of allowing junior to swot in the parents' bedroom, so that rival parents may see junior's bedroom light off and the sitting-room light on. Mummy will be in the sitting-room watching the latest soap opera, the plots of which she will later relate to junior. At school the next morning, junior will talk animatedly about last night's television, to reassure his pals he has not been boning up on Chilean rainfall.

The idea, of course, is to trip up junior's pals so that when the

school entrance exam asks just how wet it gets in Santiago, junior nabs one of the few places vacant at a famous school.

Traditionally it has also fallen upon schools to nurture Japanese values into Japanese youth, especially "group spirit", the glue of society. They are taught that "the nail that sticks out must be hammered down", a phrase that every Japanese can quote so readily that suspicious immigration officials could use it as a test of Japanese nationality.

At its most ludicrous, this maxim results in a stifling conformity: trouser turn-ups must be an exact depth, hair a prescribed length, and children whose hair is not naturally jet black must bring a letter from home certifying that they have not dyed it. At its most harmful, this philosophy discourages individual thinking as something disruptive and disloyal to classmates.

Because of the structure of

Japanese society, teachers have enormous power: over their charges, and over it. Parents will often not complain when children tell of beatings by teachers, even though corporal punishment is illegal. Every now and then children die from such beatings. The rules they have broken are often trivial. One student died recently after being thrashed for taking a hair dryer on a school trip.

When the discipline is not heavy-handed it is often bizarre. One school makes pupils practice screaming in order to improve speech delivery. Throat specialists say the children develop sore throats and could suffer permanent damage if their voices are just breaking. The headmaster dismisses all this nonsense and says: "It's important to be able to speak with a loud voice, so I intend to continue the training."



At a kindergarten in Kawasaki, three-year-olds spend winters in chilly classrooms and freezing playgrounds dressed only in gym shorts. "Actually, they feel cold, I think," says the school's perceptive deputy director, Soti Matsumoto. "But they don't want to be defeated by the cold. I think that's what is important."

Given Japan's cultural background, it is surprising that a debate is taking shape at all.

What has stung Japan into discussing the drawbacks of its education system are fears that it will not be able to jump from a nation of car and television makers to an inspired co-leader of the free world if it does not start producing opinion-formers who have original things to say and the courage and latitude to say them.

What also hits a country that has most things money can buy is that since foreigners still dismiss Japan as a nation of mimics, making money out of others' inventions, a country that has yet to produce a stream of science and arts Nobel laureates, as the West has done, the carping is unfair. But in a country obsessed with what others think of it, the remarks sting just the same.

The reformers' task is daunting. Changes come slowly in Japan and individuality is uncomfortable for many Japanese. Worse still, even defining the problem is a headache. According to Ikuro Amano, Professor of Education at Tokyo University: "The very meaning of 'to think' is not well understood in our culture. To us it means something like 'to find out an answer which can be shared by others.' Oh dear."

COLLECTING

A-rockin' and a-rollin'

The American guitar is edging its way into the art market. Ever since the Hard Rock Cafe in London began to display its collection of rock stars' instruments, there has been a market for guitars signed or played by great musicians. In 1988 a flame-shaped electric guitar, custom-built for John Entwistle, fetched £16,500 at Sotheby's, and Jimi Hendrix's 1968 Fender Stratocaster, included in Sotheby's forthcoming rock 'n' roll sale, has an estimate of £60,000 to £70,000.

Steve Maycock, Sotheby's rock 'n' roll expert, admits that, without the Hendrix connection, this guitar would be worth less than a tenth of the price.

There is also a strong market for vintage guitars from such classic American makers as Gibson, Fender or Gretsch, even though they have no star connections.

In the United States prices are being boosted by demand from Japanese buyers. Collectors such as Akira Tsumura, who are paying up to £100,000

for the rarest "prime instruments" such as a D'Angelico or a pre-war Martin, believe they are preserving a disappearing craft.

The market is also expanding in this country. "There are a lot of guitars in the £10,000 to £25,000 range," says Chris Trigg of Vintage & Rare Guitars in London. "It's been pretty crazy for the past few years, and it's getting crazier."

Not only do the guitars of the Fifties and early Sixties sound marvellous, they evoke the memory of what it was like to be part of the rock 'n' roll generation. Even to non-musicians, these are beautiful objects: Gibson used the finest bird's eye and tiger stripe figured maple; the "Country" Gretsch 6131 has inlaid mother of pearl cacti and cowhorns, leather tooling and a tailpiece carved with cowbells and a covered wagon; while to cradle the sci-fi shapes of a solid electric Fender Jaguar or two-tone, ice-cream-coloured Swinger is to bring back all one's adolescent dreams of playing alongside a band.



Rocking the market: (l-r) 1950s Gibson (£2,800), 1953 D'Angelico (£22,500) and 1938 Gibson (£3,250)

Many musical instrument shops stock second-hand guitars, but condition is extremely important in assessing the value of a vintage guitar. A Gibson L5 or Les Paul Gold Top may be worth several thousand pounds in perfect, original condition, but not if it has been refinished or restored. If all you want to do is

pick a few chords and dream, condition may not matter, but that should be reflected in the price.

Isabelle Ancombe

● Sotheby's Rock 'n' Roll and Film Memorabilia sale is on April 25. Specialist dealers: Vintage & Rare Guitars, 168 Kenway Road, London SW96 (01-370 7835).

Behind the scenes in Sheffield

HARRY Epworth Allen's breakthrough into the salerooms was via the classic route of an attic discovery. His widow needed more space, and employed a dealer. He took Allen's stylish pictures of his native Sheffield and the neighbouring Derbyshire countryside for what must have been a song, and sold them to a local man.

They were stacked in a room for a while, before the new owner decided to sell. The group of 36 paintings is currently on show at Phillips in New Bond Street, London, until Wednesday.

Allen's father was a craftsman in the steel industry, who set up his own business. An interest in painting led him to enrol for evening classes at the Sheffield Technical School, and he was employed as an artist in the trenches during the First World War.

But the war ended for Allen when he lost a leg, and in 1931

he decided to become a full-time artist.

Allen was already a member of the Sheffield Society of Artists, but he joined the newly formed Yorkshire group and sent work to the Royal Academy summer exhibition between 1933 and 1955. "The Woodlanders", one of his first three submissions, was bought by the

Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Instead of trying to capture the fleeting effects of light as in his pastels — "Gypsy Encampment", 19in x 26in (£5,000-£7,000), and "Sheffield Town Hall", 21½in x 13in (£2,000-£3,000) — his forms became much more stylized, such as "The Farmyard", tempera, 13in x 19½in (£7,000-

£10,000), or "A Derbyshire Landscape", tempera, (18½in x 24in) (£8,000-£10,000).

After his death there was a memorial exhibition and, three decades later, one at the Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield. Then, last May, "The Timber Dump" found its way to Phillips. It was estimated at between £2,000-£3,000, in line with previous auction prices, but soared to a new artist's record of £25,300.

After London the paintings will move to Leeds for viewing. The sale may prompt his home town to increase its stake in the vision of a highly talented South Yorkshireman.

John Shaw

● Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 6602). Exhibition: today, 8.30am-noon; tomorrow, 2.5pm; Mon, Tues and Wed, 8.30am-5pm.
● Phillips, Hepper House, 17A East Parade, Leeds 1 (0532 448011). Viewing: April 30, May 1, 10am-4pm, and morning of sale. Sale: May 2, 11am. Catalogue £5.

SALES GUIDE

ROCK AND POP: Dominated by 141 Buddy Holly kites. Phillips, 10 Salem Road, Baywater, London W2 (01-229 8090). Viewing: today, 9am-5pm. Sale: Mon, 11am.
SUSSEX SELECTION: Pictures, furniture and oriental ceramics. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, Sussex (0403 783933). Check viewings with auctioneer. Sales: pictures, Tues, 10.30am; ceramics, Wed, 10.30am, 2pm.

DONALD McGill: 140 master printing plates, 2,000 cards and some original water-colours by the king of the seaside postcard. GA Auction Galleries, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, Sussex (0903 205565). Viewing: today, 9am-noon. Sale follows.
HOME AND ABROAD: British and Continental glass and ceramics. Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7811). Viewing: Mon, 5-7.30pm; Tues and Wed, 9am-5pm. Sale: Thurs, 2pm.

CAMPUS

Face to face with glasnost

From the moment I was accepted on our college trip to the Soviet Union, I knew I wanted to do more than see the sights. I started writing letters to politicians and newspaper editors, requesting an interview.

My first reply came relatively quickly and I felt as if I had won the pools. Ivan Frolov, editor of *Pravda* and adviser to President Gorbachev, would meet me and two friends, Vanessa Fleming and Ian Boys.

We received four more replies, three of which were friendly rejections. Two days before we were due to leave for Moscow, on April 5, I received a letter from the Soviet Embassy in London: "The home affairs minister, Vadim Bakatin, is prepared to meet you for discussions." When we were in Moscow, however, our Intourist guide, Irina, knew nothing of our plans and was sceptical. "These people are very busy, you know."

My spirits lifted when I found a scruffy dressed man waiting outside my hotel room later that day. "I'm from the Ministry of the Interior, and must know full details of your itinerary so that I can inform the minister and collect you when he calls; it could be any time." Then we persuaded Irina to phone Ivan Frolov to arrange a meeting.

We were greeted at *Pravda* by a young journalist who took us to the editor's office, where two men called Sasha were with him, one a special correspondent and the other assistant to Mr Frolov.

The spacious, luxurious room was a long way from the noise and chaos that one might expect to find at a British daily newspaper. Bookshelves lined one wall — rows of smart, leather-bound books, not the drab paper covers seen in Soviet shops. No one burst in with a piece of last-minute news, our only visitor was a maid, who brought the coffee.

Mr Frolov is a philosopher, and our carefully thought-out questions only served to prompt him to talk at length on whatever subject he felt like. These ranged from journalism (he would like to publish *Pravda* in English, in Britain and the United States), to party privileges, Europe ("Kohl is in a state of euphoria

A college trip to the Soviet Union gave Sarah Hurst the opportunity to meet two of the powers behind Moscow



— he sees the possibility to become a great personality — that's why he pushes some events and may not always take balanced decisions", communism ("perestroika breaks away from the past, but at the same time it's a renaissance of humanistic ideas characterized by Marx, Engels and Lenin"), and, the field Frolov is an expert in, the philosophy of science.

After about 20 minutes in the company of this eminent man, we asked about the row of black Volgas parked outside the *Pravda* building, which take up one side of an entire street. Elsewhere, almost everyone drives a Lada. What ever happened to the classless system? The two Sashas seized their chance to cut short our interview. "You should be glad of these 'privileged cars'. We will be using one to take you back in just a few minutes." The play did not work. We were lucky enough to have an hour and a half with Mr Frolov.

On the way out, we stopped

and not a limousine — especially as the rest of our group saw us off.

A soldier stood guard outside Vadim Bakatin's office. He flung the door open at one point during our interview, presumably to announce that another visitor had arrived, but he was not allowed to interrupt us. The obligatory portrait of Lenin hung over Mr Bakatin's desk and a portrait of Mr Gorbachev graced one wall. I found that rather odd — do British Cabinet ministers work under a likeness of Mrs Thatcher?

Mr Bakatin's first words floored us: "For how many minutes are you going to torture me?" I was about to say: "Well, we're just going, actually," but he put us at ease by chatting about his five-year-old granddaughter, and marking where we lived on a map of the Thames which we had given him.

The minister was as difficult to interview as Mr Frolov; he expressed concern that his smooth style might not be coming across in the translation. When Mr Bakatin talked about Lithuania, he banged his fist on the table repeatedly and admitted that it was not easy to change people's minds about independence. He was adamant that, although the republic had a right to secede, it should not happen overnight. But it was amusing overnight, wasn't it? "If that was wrong then, should we repeat the wrong today?"

Mr Bakatin is a member of Mr Gorbachev's newly formed Presidential Council, and his prime concern is law and order. His ambition is to raise the status of Soviet policemen to the level of public esteem that is accorded the British bobby. We reminded him of cases such as the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six, but he said that isolated incidents should not reflect on the police force as a whole.

More souvenirs were heaped upon us as we left. We were given genuine army hats, which are not permitted to be taken out of the country, but luckily we were not searched at customs. If we had been asked how we got them, the truth would have been stranger than any story we could invent.

At lunchtime on our last day in Moscow, I was reconciling myself to the disappointment of not meeting the minister, when Irina appeared. "The man from the ministry is here." I was sorry that we were taken in a Volga

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● Sarah Hurst is an A-level student at Henley College

COASTLINE

How Neptune's empire stands

The National Trust has 512 miles of unspoilt coastline in its care — but it wants more, writes Peter Davenport

On a perfect day of blue skies and high, white clouds, the view out of Mel Cunningham's kitchen window is undeniably spectacular. From Peakside Farm, perched precariously on the very edge of the cliffs on the Yorkshire coast at Ravenscar, the expanse of Robin Hood's Bay falls away in a breathtaking panorama.

Across the far side of the bay, beyond the wide horseshoe of sand, the red-tiled roofs of a cluster of cottages that reach to the water's edge are bright in the morning sun, gulls and fulmars wheel on the currents of air and a pheasant, startled suddenly from its nest, hurries headlong down a 500 ft drop to a thicket on the shoreline below.

It is some of the most dramatic and unspoilt coastline around our shores, and just a fraction of the total acquired by the National Trust since it launched its Enterprise Neptune campaign 25 years ago. Mr Cunningham is the Trust's coastal warden for Yorkshire, and his job is to protect and manage the land so the public can enjoy the benefits of open access.

"When the Trust buys sections of coastline, it is not with the intention of putting it in a box and hiding it away, but to allow people to appreciate and enjoy it without spoiling it," he says.

Enterprise Neptune was launched by the Duke of Edinburgh with the aim of purchasing some 900 miles of unspoilt and threatened coastline out of a total of 3,000 miles around the shores of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, to protect it forever from housing schemes, industrial development, land reclamation or careless farming practices.

It had four main objectives: to focus public attention on the problem of coastal development; to acquire and preserve fine coastline; to improve the quality of the Trust's existing coastline by careful management; and to raise an initial £2 million.

Today, a quarter of a century later, some 512 miles of unspoilt coast are under the care of the



Held in trust for public benefit: Mel Cunningham protects the Yorkshire coast at Ravenscar

Trust and declared inalienable, the best form of protection available. Only an Act of Parliament could change their designation. Some have been given to the Trust by supporters, but the majority has been purchased with the £13.5 million raised since 1965. There are still almost 400 further miles left to save, and Gill Rakes, the Trust's coast and countryside appeals manager, reckons it could take 20 years to achieve.

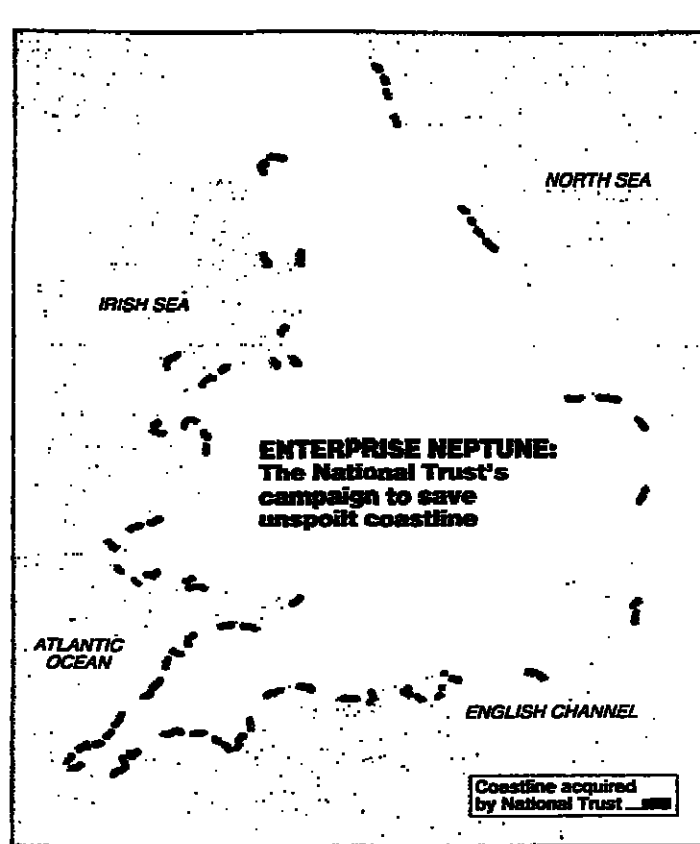
"We face many battles, not the least of which is leaving the money to achieve our objectives. We have to compete when land that we want becomes available, and it is becoming increasingly expensive at the same time as the threats from development are also getting greater.

"There is no doubt that we have lost some acquisitions because we have not had the money available. We don't get everything we want, sometimes because the prices are inflated, but we want to minimize the number of properties that happen to."

Although many people still imagine that the National Trust is solely about stately homes and grand gardens, it has always been much more in fact. The first property it was given in 1895, the year of its foundation, was 4.5 acres of rocky hill-top overlooking Cardigan Bay in North Wales. Its first purchase of coastal land came two years later, at Barra Head near Tintagel in Cornwall, while its latest is on the Lleyn Peninsula in North Wales.

The bulk of its holdings, around 200 miles, are in Devon and Cornwall, but the latter county was also the scene of one of its greatest disappointments, the failure to secure Land's End when it first came up for sale in 1981. Even though the Trust managed to raise more than £1 million, it lost out to a private bidder, and could not afford to enter the market later, when Land's End was bought by Peter de Savary.

The Trust keeps an eye on the coastline it still covets, to ensure that it will know quickly of any potential sales. To that end it has an enviable information network, including its 85 coastal wardens and many of its 1.86 million members. It aims always to have sufficient funds in reserve to bid



quickly and competitively for coastline that comes on the market, because it simply would not have the time to launch separate appeals each time land became available.

This year, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Enterprise Neptune, the Trust is aiming to raise £2 million, double its normal annual target, to purchase more coastline. Numerous fund-raising events are planned throughout the year with each of the Trust's 16 regions organizing its own ventures, culminating in a national gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall in October.

One of the more individual efforts, however, will be that of National Trust member Robert Steel, aged 70, the former secretary general of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. On April 30 he will leave London to walk the 2,000 miles around the perimeter of England, ending up back in the capital 100 days later, on August 7, aiming to arrive at the exact moment when the digital time will read 12.34.56, 7.8.90. He hopes to raise £50,000.

Since the Neptune scheme began, the Trust has made 15 purchases on the rugged North Yorkshire coast, and now has some nine miles under protection, a total of around 1,000 acres made up of five farms, industrial archaeological remains and woodland. It owns areas at Boggle Hole,

Hayburn Wyke and Salburn Nab, along with some 425 acres around Robin Hood's Bay and Ravenscar. The Trust considers virtually all the coast between Flamborough Head and Redcar worthy of its protection.

Peakside Farm, where Mr Cunningham lives with his wife and two children, was bought by the Trust in 1976. He arrived there five years ago. Currently he has 12 workers on the Government's Employment Training Scheme building stone walls, erecting fences and repairing eroded footpaths. They are also undertaking a major conservation programme on the site of the old Peak Alum Works in Ravenscar to show the history of the industry in the area before it died out in the mid 19th century.

"Uncontrolled development could spoil large sections of the coast forever," he said, as we sat in a former stable converted into a makeshift office and offering spreading views across the bay. "But the competition for land is tough, and we don't have a blank cheque to pay for it."

"In some ways, though, the easy bit is buying the land; the harder part is to improve it and manage it well so that people can enjoy and appreciate this natural asset."

"We still have a long way to go, but I know that similar organizations in European countries with coastlines are already amazed and envious of what the Trust has achieved to date."

Natural attractions

THERE is another view of tourism in the Galapagos Islands from the one described by Charles Bremner last Saturday. My wife and I have recently returned from a holiday there, and while every word written by your correspondent needed to be said, I feel there is something missing from his report.

I cannot deny that at some times of the year boats full of tourists are queuing to disembark their passengers, but the main photograph published represented the usual situation of our party, alone on an evening walk.

It is not correct to say that visitors hope to get a "glimpse" of an iguana, a sea lion or a penguin. The problem with marine iguanas is that they are constantly under your feet. The problem with sea lions is that they are convinced you are an immaterial genetic variation of their own species, a notion enjoyed especially by the young who want to be stroked (a forbidden activity) so they can follow the dinghy, or panga, along the coast until you go for a swim when you can all play together. The problem with booby birds is that they choose to mate precisely on the narrow trails to which one is sometimes confined. Why not? They are educators of the pink mammals.

The guides confine and discipline the tourists. Our guide, David Day, who has been on the islands for 18 years, is an expert in everything from the largest mussel (5mm) to sperm whale.

Mr Day slept little during our hunt for whales. I would see him late at night while I was watching the zodiacal constellations and early in the morning when I was watching Venus. His hydrophone apparatus detected the clicks of about 100 sperm whales at dawn on our last day. They are perhaps the ugliest creatures ever evolved (unlike the dolphins that rode a phosphorescent bow wave at night), but it gave us all a final photo-opportunity, and strong swimmers a chance to disport.

This is the good news about the Galapagos. No sensible person would spend more than a few hours in Puerto Ayora before embarking towards modified enchantment on the sharp lava, the blistering effects of sun and sea and a harmony between human, beast and bird which is unique.

Go there before the developers and the do-gooders combine to destroy this aspect of the frail Ecuadorian economy, deprive the animals and birds of companionship and generally achieve the opposite of what they intend. But first, choose your season and check your boat.

Raymond Kidwell

MOTORING CHALLENGE

Fast route to a washout

The Peking to London convoy is speeding ahead, Graham Rock reports

If you were driving on the Continent this week and were brushed aside at a black separation hurried past at 150mph, you would not be alarmed. It was probably Baron Guy de Wismé attempting to catch up in the London to Peking Motoring Challenge.

Fate seems to be telling the French aristocrat that he should not be attempting this marathon. Initially he had expected to compete in a modified London taxi, but when he arrived in Britain to collect it he found both the vehicle and the company preparing it in pieces.

He overcame this minor inconvenience by flying to Germany and acquiring a Lamborghini Cheeta. Much favoured by Middle Eastern generals, it looks like a tank and goes like a rocket.

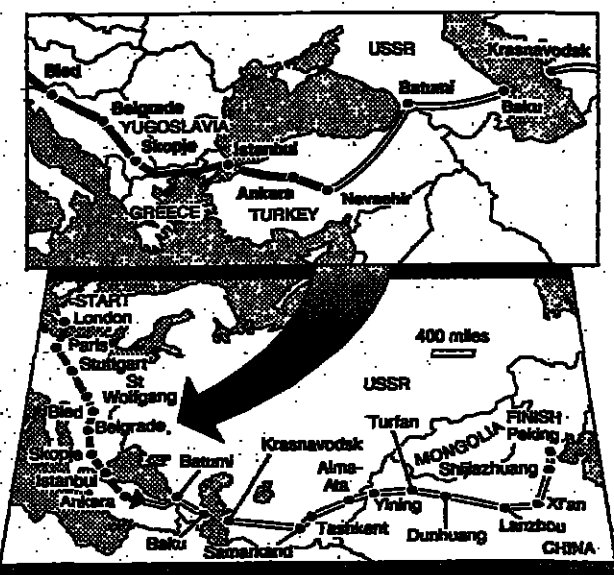
The Baron gently ran in his purchase at speeds in excess of 100mph, but by the time the challengers had assembled at Silvri, about 40 miles from Istanbul, the Cheeta's roar had been reduced to a maw; half the engine had expired.

If he can repair the Cheeta, the Baron might make Trabzon by today, but he could become the first of the 65 drivers to drop out of contention.

The Klassis Hotel at Silvri has five stars, and deserves every one of them, but its facilities were severely tested by the convoy. On the Monday morning of our departure, the challengers were moving uncomfortably. This could be blamed on the laundry. With 160 guests arriving out of season, having belted across Europe in five days with barely enough time to change their underwear, their first task was to load socks with dirty washing, dial housekeeping, and unwind in the hotel's opulent ambience.

The system was overloaded, however, with the result that most guests could not collect their laundry until departure 36 hours later, and a few found not only their own underwear, but some belonging to their colleagues. It was all sorted out eventually.

The observation coach broke down shortly after



departure, and the replacement did not leave until 2pm, arriving at Ankara nearly eight hours later. A bug had swept through the passengers and two are still recuperating, but they are hoping to hire a car and catch up before the bus reaches the Soviet border.

We were grateful for some advice on driving conditions from an official of the Turkish Tourist Board in the country, "watch for all black things on the roads — these might be pot-holes and you will fill them," on driving in the major cities, "red lights are for rather ornamental purposes"; and in general, "do not expect any common sense from the local drivers."

This proved invaluable when negotiating the Istanbul rush hour. Predictably, the ordered line of cars which left the hotel to travel in-convo for an official send-off at the Dolmabahce Palace was in tatters by the time we had reached the city centre. Since only a few knew the correct route to the rendezvous, it was essential to keep the next car in sight.

We were stopped by red lights and a surge of traversing traffic, losing our colleagues. Endeavouring to catch up at

list of the world's Good Samaritans, but one appeared from nowhere and completed the task in less than two minutes.

Since last week we have had two "rest" days, which have been filled with stamina-sapping sightseeing tours of Istanbul and Cappadocia, the latter a valley in Turkey.

Taking in the sights has been tempered by the realization that we are mortal; from demi-gods of capitalism speeding the message to the East, with all impediments swept aside, we were reduced to mere tourists, forced to queue behind Germans and Japanese in order to get a glimpse of the attractions.

We left our last week in Skopje and, if you ever stay in the Continental Hotel there, be careful how you sit down. The 1939 BSA lost a mud-guard strut which was perfectly replaced with the leg of a tubular steel chair, liberated by a hack-saw.

The 1912 Lancia Simplex Speedster has kept up well. After leaving Ankara, a minor part of the engine flew off on to the side of the road. One challenge vehicle after another stopped on realizing the Lancia's plight and, although the search party was unsuccessful, the vintage car made it to Nevsehir.

The challengers have given the traffic police of all countries a rare bonanza in on-the-spot fines. Trundling through a southern Yugoslavian village with an unpronounceable name and a speed limit of 35mph, I was stopped for a recorded 50mph. I pointed out to the policeman that, if I maintained a speed of 35mph to Peking I should have packed some Christmas cards, but he was unmoved, and fined me 1,500 dinars (70p).

I gave him two 1,000-dinar notes and, with a sickly smile, he said he was sorry, but he had no change. I said I was sorry, but neither had I; He said he was sorry that I was sorry. Before we fell sobbing into each other's arms, I jumped into the Mercedes, roared off at maximum acceleration, and reached double the speed limit before the end of the village, honours even.

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EATING OUT

Adventures in wonderland

This week's word is *oneiric*. It means pertaining to dreams, dreamlike, suggestive of the movement of dreams. It is the key word of surrealism, though most surrealism merely institutionalizes the idea. The painter Pierre Roy and such writers as Don DeLillo and Michel Tournier make art that corresponds to the wonderfully free art we make in sleep. It is an incredibly rare gift to achieve that reproduction wittingly. Did the builder of Cothay in west Somerset realize that he was building a dream house for the teenager who swooned in its gardens 400 years later? Did Lutyens realize the effect he would have on me when he built Marsh Court? Yes — though not on me, but on a particular sensibility. *Pace* Lewis Carroll and the *Wells of Mr. Polly*, the most effective dream art in Britain has been that achieved by collaboration between architects and gardeners. Despite the park of Buttes Chaumont in north-east Paris, despite Le Palais Idéal at Hautvillers in the Drôme, the French have tended to dream in other media.

Raymond Blanc, a quondam Frenchman who has spent half his life in this country and who has never worked in a kitchen in France, is now the most imaginatively accomplished chef in Britain. Nearly everything about his enterprise is *oneiric*. On a good day the dream begins with the first of the fortuitous that surround him, the bizarre telecommunications tower beside the M40, west of Stokenchurch. Then you spin down from the Chilterns escarpment and hang left at Junction 7. In France, a restaurant of the stature of Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons would be signposted for miles around. This is England, and it isn't. You overshoot, do a U-turn in a scrapyard, hit Great Milton. This village, south-east of Oxford, is nearly all limestone, and thus looks

Jonathan Meades dines on the stuff of dreams at the superlative First Restaurant of Britain

more like those to the north and west of the city — in architectural, if not topographical, character it belongs to the Cotswolds.

Every gravel stone at Le Manoir is hand-placed, to drive on them is almost an act of defilement. The entrance of Le Manoir possesses a mellow douceur. The greeting you get within is effusively smiley, happy, suggestive that you are not one of the fallen. (The earlier phone greeting edges the other way, treats you like a credit card chancer. This was the only time when the staff behaved like common or garden hotel staff.) When we arrived we were led into a garden — what a garden — and were admiring a pine and marvelling at the sheer luck of being in such a place on such a day, when there occurred, almost simultaneously, the sound and the vision. The garden is entirely enveloped by a high stone wall — or so it appears to the negligent spectator; the wall seems to be relieved only by a chicane-like jink and a couple of "windows", gaps with columnar mullions that allow a sight of a series of ponds. So far, so lovely — but not dreamlike. Then out of the wall comes this cry of "Allô, Jonington", followed by this slight white figure, the all-white Blanc. Imagine the youngling Delon, the Delon of *Le Cercle rouge* or *Le Samouraï*, but scowling and Beatie-coiffed, and you've got it. This, I guess, is where the dream begins. The timing of the guy's happenstantial movement into the garden was perfect. I'd met him once before to talk to, and one half of a time to say "allô" to.

LE MANOIR AUX QUAT' SAISONS
Great Milton, Oxfordshire
(0844 278881/2/3)
Lunch and dinner every day, £180 (lunch, weekdays only, £75). Major cards.

And here he was, materializing out of a stone wall, as if he'd known all along that I'd be there... But, then, I doubt that M Blanc got where he is today by adhering to the (un)oneiric unities. There's a beneficent congruence between the man and the place; rather, between the man's art and the place. They share an elusiveness, a strangeness that defies being pinned down. Both seem to owe much to legerdemain. There is a view of the house from beyond the garden wall and across the largest of the carp ponds that goes to the very core of memory, ignites something far off — water, a stone wall, steps, a yew, a dark aperture, ranks of gables... It's an intense distillation of a kind of Englishness, specifically the kind that was often represented in Victorian painting.

Great Milton Manor looks the way it does largely because it is a reproduction of itself. Much of what one sees, inside and out, is not Jacobean but Edwardian: in the first decade of this century the prolific architect Edward Warren added a wing and worked over the fabric of the building. What exists now is largely a chunk of Merry England as conceived by a Master of the Art Workers' Guild. Old England is not so old at all, it's really quite a modern invention. Le Manoir may be a restaurant first, the First Restaurant of Britain, but it's also a hotel, a big operation, and the recent additions to the building do nothing to lessen the artifice. They are designed

to look old within months, they're slavishly "in keeping". I'm not sure that the same can be said of the new dining-room, a conservatory that has been plunked down on the lawn and has, for the moment, the appearance of a temporary structure. No doubt a can of instant Mellow will be applied.

The 360-degree illusoriness of the setting is appropriate to M Blanc's cooking, which is not possessing a marked style. He has, rather, as many styles as he has dishes in his considerable repertoire. Every dish is a fresh invention. M Blanc does not allow himself to be inhibited by limitations of method, he seems to find an *ad hoc* way of bringing off everything he essays. There is a greater variety of approaches in his cooking than in that of any other chef I've come upon. The only homogeneity in his dishes is that of fulsome menu prose.

Eating in the conservatory, one feels rather like Mrs Shilling's hair must often have felt. The assault by floral abundance is total. This room is very green, summery, relaxed. The staff, like that at Chewton Glen, is composed of young Frenchmen with telepathic gifts. Their ability to anticipate the customer's request is uncanny. There are many of them, they move team-handed, and are good-humoured and almost cosseting. Intimidatory tactics are not on the menu here. Children are treated with amiable respect, and there don't seem to be any rules about what you should or shouldn't wear. The staff takes its cue from a terrific French *maitre d'hôtel*, Alain Desmoulin, who also acts as sommelier. The selection of wines is for-



midable, strong in Bordeaux, less strong in Burgundy, pretty much dismissive of the New World, weirdly preoccupied with oddball pudding stuff. We started with a half of *venade tartine* Gewirtz-traminer, and chased that with a 1982 Chateau Kirwan — all right, maybe good, but nothing great. One of the effects of Le Manoir is that you take leave of pecuniary sense in order to indulge such senses as taste, smell and sight. The wine prices are evidence of this. The harsh fact of the matter is that this restaurant is the most expensive in Britain.

Two are unlikely to spend less than £180 a la carte; by sticking to the daily menu and drinking down, they could get out for about £70. But that would mean missing some of the best dishes to be had anywhere. It's difficult to take exception to the opinion of the leading French gastronomic magazine, *Gault Millau*, that Le Manoir's chef is among the 10 best in the world. And in comparison with seats at Twickenham or Covent Garden the price is not so frightening. One certainly doesn't feel ripped off, anything but; indeed, the fact that one doesn't is, full-volume testimony to the place's remarkable qualities. Like Fernet Branca, sex and Dungeness, everyone should experience it once. Here are some of Raymond Blanc's

inventions, dreams that quite a lot of money can buy. *Amuse-gueules* comprise, *inter alia*, sticks of flaky pastry studded with shards of anchovy, *ratatouille* tartlets, pastry wrapped round something indecipherable and delicious, but gone in a flash. A very odd "terrine" of Roquefort and something else laetic. Served extremely cold with the first of a succession of seasonally dressed salads, dressed by Azzedine Alaïa, so to speak. Also with a slightly tart tiny dice of apple and celery bound in a thin mayonnaise.

A striped terrine of duck confit and duck *foie gras*, with duck skin so crisp it makes Peking duck skin seem flabby — the pieces of skin are rolled into shapes like ocellids. For the most part, though, there is a distinct absence of fancy presentation. Charlotte of lamb, asparagus and peppers with a tomato vinaigrette and olive oil that is positively heavy. This dish prompts countless sensations of flavour and texture. An excellent creation and rather typical of Blanc is that, although its ingredients are essences of the South and familiar ones, their sum, their amalgamation, is not particularly Mediterranean at all. Sea bass stuffed with langoustine and spinach, served with mussels and *frites* de...

Millefeuille of *foie gras*, crisp potato and turnip galettes, sherry sauce, lettuce, mushrooms, onions, marinated veg (turnips?). Perhaps one pays these prices for the removal of richness. Given the ingredients, this is a marvel of lightness. Duck liver in Sauternes aspic with *foie gras* rolled in truffle shavings, duck tripe (I kid you not) candied in truffle oil. It's at about this point that one begins to wonder what planet the chef came from.

Pasta: a dish called, for some reason or other, *Spartan*. It comprises mounds of truffle, ravioli of *foie gras* and cabbage, noodles dressed with truffle sauce, a variety of butter sauces. Deserves an award for its services to flour and water. Roast saddle of rabbit, braised leg of rabbit stuffed with shallots, two sauces. Rabbit has simply never tasted like this before. Blanc's almost alchemical talent is neither to mask the flavour of meat, nor to turn it into a caricature of itself, but to enhance it, gently. Beef fillet with a crust of breadcrumbs, bone marrow and horse-radish with an Hermitage sauce. Tossily novel and beguiling flavours. Calvados soufflé baked in a hollowed-out apple. And vanilla, pistachio and coffee ice-cream.

Enough. It's time to wake up.

Backwoods Hall
Chadwell, Essex
Chadwell, Essex, near Kidderminster, Worcestershire (0522 63872)
Edwardian hotel set in mature parkland. For a hotel frequented almost exclusively by couples it is friendly and by no means stuff. The cooking is inconsistent and the chef's eagerness to combine meat and fish leads to the odd chicken breast with shellfish sauce, lamb fillet with shellfish sauce, sautéed duck with (pastaless) scallops. Other dishes are less surprising: roast beef with horseradish reduction, braised lamb, roast carp. Service and Muzak are designed to flatter middle managers. £30 dinner, £45 lunch.

The Roundhouse Restaurant
16 High Street, Roade, near Northampton (0454 863372)
The dining room is English tea-shopish. The cooking is gutsy, strong on game. A useful, pleasant *petit en croûte* with a Cumberland sauce. Attentive service, decent champagne, welcome reduction. One lamb stew, roast carp. Service and Muzak are designed to flatter middle managers. £30 dinner, £45 lunch.

Brown's
The Old Cornhill, South Quay, Worcester (0905 26263)
Handsomely achieved conversion beside the Severn. Assured Franco-British cooking, smart service, excellent French wines at decent prices. Seafood sausage is pretty good and so are pheasant breast cooked with a backing of mild bacon, char-grilled beef, the cheese and splendid ice-cream. £20.

Robin Young examines the sugar puffy in British food and drink advertisements

fill, which will be beyond the television production companies' financial resources. Then the big food companies, which are major advertisers, will move in as providers of capital to sponsor shows over which they will exercise editorial control. "They may actually get two bites at the cherry — in the US they bargain with the sponsored show for free advertising time in the commercial breaks."

The dangers of sweet-talk

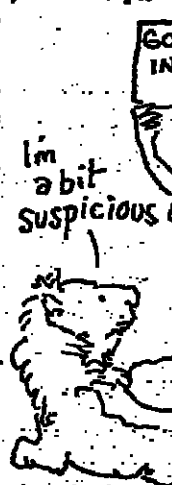
WHEN the most recent issue of *The Food Magazine* attacked the amount of misleading television advertising for sugary and fatty foods aimed at children, the Independent Broadcasting Authority blandly responded: "We will look at the specific complaints that have been raised. Our code of practice is not written in tablets of stone." Indeed it is not. It is already weak and inadequate and is about to be swept away completely.

The point will be discussed at the workshop on food quality at this year's Consumer Congress at Liverpool University today, when Jack Winkler, who runs a food research consultancy called Food and Health Research, reviews the likely effects the Government's Broadcasting Bill will have on food and drink advertising in Britain. The present IBA code permits Nestlé to claim Milky Bar has "goodness in every bite", when more than 90 per cent of its calories come from fat and sugar, and allows Kinder Milk Slice to be promoted as "the light snack that's full of goodness — milk, cereals and honey", when its cereal content is three or four grams of plain flour and less than a gram of bran. But what is coming shortly is, Mr Winkler warns, much worse than the present sugar

puffery. "Under existing advertising controls, advertisements have to get prior approval before they can be transmitted," he says. "Under the new system, advertisements will be assumed to be all right unless someone complains. By then the damage will be done. Misleading claims will have been beamed into millions of homes."

The Broadcasting Bill extends to television a complaint system of advertising regulation similar to the one used by the Advertising Standards Authority for poster and press advertising. Those who have complained to the ASA will know it can take months to get an adjudication. Even if a complaint is upheld, the advertiser is frequently able to say that the offending advertisement has been withdrawn — which often means that the campaign has already run its course. "A complaint system is a totally inappropriate mechanism to regulate television advertising," Mr Winkler maintains. "Even if a complaint goes in the first night an advertisement is shown, companies will have every interest in delaying. So, by the time it comes to adjudication, all the damage will have been done."

It is not the only danger Mr Winkler sees. "We are creating 11 new commercial channels. That is a lot of screen time to



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WINE OFFER

Here comes the summer

If you are thinking ahead to the warm days of early summer, you will find *The Times* case of wine a perfect companion. I have made a selection of red, white and rosé wines, which are ideal for drinking on their own or with a meal. They will be delivered to your door for £39.50 a case, representing excellent value and quality at a time when wines, particularly from France, are increasing in price almost every week. British wine buyers are having to cope with a 12 per cent drop in the value of the pound since last summer, on top of some punishing increases from their producers.

As in the previous Christmas offer, France provides the backbone of this mixed summer case, but it also includes a first-class New Zealand white and an Australian red. To make my selection this time, I went to Thresher and Wine Rack, which now offer one of the most exciting and varied ranges in the high street. In the past two years the combination of new wine buyers and management has turned an ordinary off-licence group into a dynamic retailer.

The vineyards of France, New Zealand and Australia are represented in a special case of wines selected by Jane MacQuitty

The case contains a refreshing aperitif or all-purpose dry summer white, plus a richer, more full-bodied white wine that could partner light, fishy, first courses as well as fuller-flavoured main-course meat and fish dishes. The two red wines include a Vin de Pays that goes down well with almost everything except fish, at its best when served slightly chilled, and a heartier, more robust red, whose rich fruit would also take well to chilling. Finally, there is a soft-sweet white wine that would be delicious with summer

puddings, and an invigorating rosé.

The response to our Christmas offer greatly exceeded our expectations, at around 10,000 cases. This time we have prepared for a similar response, but it is a limited offer and the wine will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. I recommend that you place your order, using the form on this page, as quickly as possible. There is a limit of 10 cases per application. All orders will be acknowledged by post. The closing date is May 12, but Thresher may have run out before then.

Even taking into account Thresher's 5 per cent discount for a 12-bottle order, this case represents a saving of £2.19 on their prices, and delivery is free to anywhere in mainland UK and Northern Ireland.

Fill in the coupon below, making your cheque payable to Thresher, and send it in an envelope marked "Times Offer" to Sylvia Cheal, Thresher Wine Merchants, PO Box 4, Ellis Ashton Street, Huyton Industrial Estate, Liverpool L36 6LA (051 480 5678 in office hours).



THE TIMES WINE OFFER SELECTIONS

● Two bottles of 1989 Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Producteurs Vignobles de Gascogne (£2.49). Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne is everywhere at the moment, but Thresher's exclusive version from the Plaimont group has 20 per cent of the flowery Colombard grape in its mix, which "lifts" the predominantly light Blanc blend. I loved this wine's gentle, leafy-green freshness and zesty lemon and lime-like fruit. This light, 11 per cent alcohol, thirst-quenching Gascogne white would make a fine summer aperitif and would also go down well with lighter summer meals and salads.

● Two bottles of 1988 Cooks Hawke Bay Chardonnay (£4.99). Cooks, one of New Zealand's leading wine companies, has always made fine Chardonnays. This glorious, bright, daffodil-yellow wine, the white wine star of this case, is no exception. Everyone will adore Cooks' classic, rich, spicy-buttery, oak-aged Chardonnay fruit.

It reminded me of cinnamon toast, and its fine, full flavour has enough bite and backbone to make a perfect marriage with seafood, as Cooks suggests, or other rich summer dishes, such as coronation chicken, risotto tonnato and poached salmon with a rich hollandaise sauce.

● Two bottles of Val du Torgon, Les Producteurs du Mont Tausch (£2.49). Light, all-purpose summer reds, such as this rich, spicy, herbaceous, 11.5 per cent alcohol Vin de Pays, made entirely from Carignan grapes grown in the Corbières Hills in the South of France, are at their best served chilled (ice-Banquet). A 10-minute dip in the ice-bucket is all this Torgon needs to show off its lovely raspberry scent and truffled-plummy palate. A red summer bargain buy.

● Two bottles of Lister-Gris, Vin de Pays des Sables du Golfe du Lion (£2.59). Every English summer deserves a bottle or two of a pretty pink rosé.

Previously, I have not been that impressed with Lister's Gris de Gris, but this summer's salmon-pink blend, made from the first pressing of the Grenache, Cinsault and Carignan grapes, grown in the sandy soils in the South of France close to the Mediterranean, makes a moreish, light, strawberry-scented mouthful. Its light, refreshing palate is best served well-chilled as the label suggests, and would go well with taramasalata, greek sausages, salami and other cold meats.

● Two bottles of 1988 Penfolds Kalimna Bin 28 (£4.99). Drinking a hearty Australian red, made entirely from the Shiraz grape, in the summer may sound strange. But this seductive, velvety, deep purple-black wine, with its intoxicating blend of cedar, blackberry and eucalyptus-like fruit, is a year-round charmer. Try drinking it lightly chilled with cold summer dishes, or at room temperature if the sun has gone in. Either way, this classy, 13 per cent alcohol Australian red, deemed one

of the best Bin 28s ever, made principally from Shiraz grapes grown at the Kalimna vineyard in the Barossa Valley, is what great Australian wine-making is all about.

● Two bottles of 1988 João Pires Muscat, White Table Wine (£3.99). The first bowls of fresh strawberries, peaches or raspberries cry out for a sweet summery wine to accompany them. This splendid, softly-sweet white Portuguese wine is made by the talented Australian wine-maker Peter Bright, and has been a summer favourite of mine since I first tasted it six years ago. It is made from muscat grapes grown in the Palmela region of Portugal, situated on the Setúbal Peninsula close to Lisbon. I love its aromatic, musky scent and its lively, sweet, musky-grapey taste, complete with a touch of aniseed-like spritz on the finish. Apart from making a splendid summer dessert wine, try drinking this muscat chilled as an aperitif or a refreshing mid-morning or mid-afternoon drink, while sitting in a deck-chair in the garden.

To Sylvia Cheal, Thresher Wine Merchants, PO Box 4, Ellis Ashton Street, Huyton Industrial Estate, Liverpool L36 6LA

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THE TIMES COOK

Following a taste of NHS food, Frances Bissell decides it is time to rethink diets for the convalescent

Food fit for the less than fit

DIANA LEADBETTER

There is a tale with a twist or two. I had planned to write about springtime food from the South of France, collecting ideas from the markets in Antibes and Nice and from Roger Vergé at Mougins. Then it became a cautionary tale for travellers and a warning not to eat raw shellfish from the Mediterranean: I was tempted by the sea urchins in a Provencal restaurant in old Antibes and flew back to London 24 hours later clutching my stomach. The food poisoning I had expected turned out to be a perforated appendix.

Thus I write, not from the sunny South about meals redolent of garlic, but from the Royal Free Hospital in north London, although I expect to be home long before you read this. I usually have no difficulty in finding culinary inspiration wherever I go, but this was a tough assignment. It is easy to score cheap tricks off the reputed awfulness of NHS food, but the truth is that it is dire. For my first day on solid food, I was offered a choice of cider and pork casserole, grilled fillet of plaice, spicy kidney bean stew, Asian vegetarian, garden peas, tinned (I'm serious) tomatoes and creamed potatoes, "one, two or three scoops". All perfectly nutritious, even when the catering officer and dietician planned them, I'm sure. Some choices were marked "no salt", some "low-fat", and there was a balance of vegetarian dishes as well as meat and fish dishes. But, by the time they reached the bedside, the food was only lukewarm and the steam had caused all the smells to merge, so that the milk pudding smelled like the pork casserole and the pork casserole like hot milk. Rumour had it that the kosher food was better and that whole wards were ordering it. I ordered one meal of side salad and a tapioca pudding, but then even my spirit of gastronomic research failed, and I called a halt.

No one in the ward found the food appetizing. The gulf between what we would have liked and what we were offered was enormous. I am convinced that good quality fresh food, freshly cooked and appetizingly served, would help patients to recover so much more quickly that the savings in drug costs, nursing care and bed costs would more than cover the cost of upgrading the food service. Several doctors and nursing staff I mentioned this to did not disagree. The meals have to appeal to a wide range of ages, tastes, appetites and cultures. It requires imagination and skill, but I believe these qualities are available in abundance among the well-trained and experienced staff who graduate from our catering colleges. What is also required is a much higher level of financing and, therefore, a greater degree of priority accorded to it by the health authorities.

This experience set me thinking about food for the less than fit. What do we like to eat when we are ill or recuperating? A straw poll on the ward



turned up a number of common themes. Soups go down well, but fresh, home-made soups, not ones made from a packet or stock cubes. Turkey soup was one suggestion. Stock made from a roast turkey carcass makes a soup that tastes as if it will get you back on your feet again. Tomato soup and vegetable soup were also popular. We all liked the idea of chicken, either poached or grilled. I longed for that soothing Chinese dish called "chowder", a rice gruel mixture with a little chicken in it. This is simple to make, even for an invalid, and is deliciously flavoured, nourishing and easy to digest.

When you are ill, taste-buds seem to work overtime. Salty food tastes more salty and sweet food sweeter. Rich, creamy or fatty food is not welcome; neither is anything very sweet. But the sweetness from fruit can be very refreshing, especially from such things as large, thin-skinned seedless grapes or crisp sweet apples and pears. Most things that need peeling are too much of a bother, so a fresh fruit salad, moistened with a little natural fruit juice, would make an acceptable gift for someone in hospital; so, too, would fruit juices. Acidic citrus juices are not always appreciated, and I would offer instead red or white grape juice or organic pear and apple juices. All of these are delicious when diluted with still or sparkling mineral water. I do specify organic apple and pear juice — if you are trying to get better, why poison your system with juices from

fruit that might have been sprayed with Alar. I much appreciated a packet of herbal tea sachets brought for me. The clean flavours of mint in a combination with lemon verbena or linden flower are refreshing, soothing and much easier on the system than the caffeine in tea and coffee.

Here are a few more ideas for food for the feeble.

Turkey and barley soup (makes 2pt/1.15l)
3-4tbsp pearl barley
3pt/1.7l turkey stock
1 small onion or shallot
1 celery stalk
½ small fennel bulb
1 bay leaf
2tbsp finely chopped parsley
salt and pepper
2tbsp dry sherry, optional

Simmer the barley in the stock until almost tender. Meanwhile, peel and finely chop or slice the vegetables, and cook in the stock, together with the bay leaf. When the vegetables are cooked to your liking, add the parsley and seasoning. If using the sherry, give this a few minutes' cooking time in the soup for the alcohol to evaporate. If you do not use barley, dice some raw potato and cook with the vegetables. Shreds of turkey can also be added to enrich the soup.

Spring vegetable soup (makes 2pt/1.15l)
1 small carrot

2 celery stalks
1 leek
1 small turnip
3oz/85g asparagus tips, French beans
mangetout, etc
bunch of watercress
2tbsp dried cannellini or haricot beans,
well rinsed and pre-soaked
parsley stalks
2 ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped
mushroom peelings
1 bay leaf
1 sprig thyme
3pt/1.7l water
salt and pepper

Make the garnish first by washing and trimming the carrot, celery, leek and turnip. Use the outer peelings for the stock. Finely shred about one tablespoon of leek, and finely dice enough celery, carrot and turnip to give you another two tablespoons of vegetables. Cover and put to one side with the beans and asparagus, and so on. Reserve a few of the watercress sprigs. Put the rest of the ingredients in a saucepan with the water, bring to the boil, and cook for 30 minutes. Put the prepared garnish in a clean saucepan. Strain the broth on top, and bring to the boil. Season to taste, and serve when the vegetables are just tender.

Chicken and rice (serves 1 to 2)
2oz/56g medium or short grain rice
1pt/570ml water
1 small or medium boneless chicken
breast, skinned
freshly grated nutmeg
salt or soy sauce, to taste

Put the rice and water in a saucepan and cook until the rice grains have burst and the water is thickened with rice starch. Mince, shred or finely chop the chicken and stir into the rice gruel. Cook for 10 to 15 minutes, adding more water if necessary. Season lightly with nutmeg, and add salt or soy sauce if needed.

Pear jelly (makes 1pt/570ml)
1pt/570ml organic pear juice
4 sheets gelatine
1 large, firm, ripe sweet pear
juice of ½ lemon

Measure out ½pt/70ml liquid into a saucepan, and soften the gelatine in this. When soft, put it over a low heat and stir until the gelatine has completely dissolved. Peel, core and slice the pear and brush it with lemon juice to prevent it discolouring. Mix the rest of the juice with the gelatine liquid. Dip the pear slices into the liquid and line individual moulds or a large one with the slices. Refrigerate until set. Carefully pour in the rest of the liquid and refrigerate until set. The pears may float away from the sides, but the jelly will still look good with the fruit suspended in it.

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Filling a hole

ON OUR way to Jane Grigson's funeral last month, we stopped at a pub in a small town in Wiltshire. A home-made meat pie or some sausages would be nice: after all, Wiltshire is a great county for porkers. We went into one pub after

the other, each worse than the last. The menu from one offered pizza, ham or cheese, scampi, chicken Kiev, chilli con carne and lasagne with fries. In 1974 Mrs Grigson wrote that "the food we get publicly in England isn't so often bad English cooking as a pretentious and inferior imitation of French cooking or Italian cooking" (*English Food*, Penguin, £7.99). Clearly things have not changed as much as we like to think.

Although I am keen on collecting unusual recipes from abroad, my roots are those of an English cook, brought up in Yorkshire on good, plain English cooking.

When I have gone as guest cook to hotels abroad, I have cooked recipes that form part of the extensive English, or rather British, repertoire. From time to time, I shall be writing about some of them, not in any order of importance or preference, but rather as the mood or season dictates.

When I cooked at the Mamia Peninsula last year, having shown the hotel's Swiss butcher how to make English sausages, I went on to explain to the Filipino cooks this curious dish involving batter being poured over hot sausages and then baked. "Ah, you mean toad-in-the-hole," said one of them. He had once worked with an English chef in the Middle East, so all was explained.

Andre Simon was scathing about this homey dish, saying that it was "barely fit to lay before hungry urchins at a grammar school", and that making it with sausages was to coarsen Mrs Beeton's "original" recipe made with steak. In fact, the recipe has its origins much earlier than the mid-19th century Mrs Beeton. Hannah Glasse, more than a hundred years before, has a recipe for "pigeons in a hole".

in which seasoned pigeons are placed in a dish with a nut of butter in the cavity, batter is poured over them, and the dish is baked. I would be more inclined to use quail for her version. But, in truth, a basic toad-in-the-hole made with good sausages is an excellent and economical supper or lunch dish that is hard to beat.

Toad-in-the-hole (serves 4)

½lb/230g plain or self-raising flour
good pinch of salt
3 eggs
scant pint/570ml semi-skimmed milk
1lb/450g good quality pork sausages

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl, and make a well in the centre. Lightly beat the eggs and pour into the well. Gradually draw in the flour, mixing with a spoon, then slowly add the milk, stirring all the while to ensure a smooth, lump-free mixture. Once all the ingredients have been incorporated, beat vigorously until the mixture becomes noticeably lighter and bubbly, with the consistency of single cream. The batter can also be made in a food processor or blender. Cover and put to one side while you prepare the sausages. Prick these to prevent them from bursting, and fry them all over for 10 minutes, until the fat has run. Use some of the fat to grease a roasting tin (about 10x12in), which you then heat in a hot oven. Alternatively, you can put the pricked sausages in the roasting tin, and cook them in a hot oven for 10 minutes and then drain away some of the fat. Remove the sausages from the roasting tin, and pour a quarter of the batter into the hot tin. Return it to the oven, and bake for five minutes at 220°C/425°F/gas mark 7. Take the roasting tin out of the oven, and arrange the sausages on top. Pour on the rest of the batter, and bake for a further 35 to 40 minutes, without opening the oven door, until the batter is golden-brown and well risen. Serve immediately.

F. B.



"So he won't let us marry?"

"Monsieur looked up."

"That's what he said."

"But what changed his mind?"

"I haven't a clue," he

pointed out another glass

of chilled Petite Liqueur.

Savouring the peillan

mixture of Bordeaux wines

and fine old COGNAC, I

was asked for your hand."

"And what did he say?"

"He said, 'The man who

marries my daughter will

receive a prize beyond

COMFART."

"So what's the problem?"

"I asked to see the prize

list..."

THINK PETITE. Petite

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What is there to be afraid of?

Victoria Glendinning explores contradictory responses to the essentially unknowable meaning and nature of death

Reflections on death turn out to be reflections on life, since no one with first-hand experience of the event is available to be interviewed. Wittgenstein said that death was not an event in life at all, as it is not lived through. Rosemary Dinwiddie, addressing the difficulty, writes that our fears and beliefs about dying are set in childhood, and that the people whom she interviewed were talking about "whatever in their experience and fantasies had meant death".

She transcribes the responses of nearly two dozen people, some identified by their full names and some by first names only — doctors, writers, suicidal housewives, the bereaved, the terminally ill, an AIDS sufferer, an archdeacon, a gypsy, a rabbi, a fireman, an anthropologist — and Dr Jonathan Miller, who witters amiably about his death-intoxicated nanny, whose dark sayings, unforgotten, show how literally children take figurative speech. Little Jonathan visualized people "laying down their lives" exactly as they laid wreaths on the Cenotaph. "Your mother is at death's door," said nanny, and he imagined her forlornly waiting on the threshold.

The people who have stood at death's door in *The Ruffian on the Stair* can in fact tell us something. Out-of-body experiences — the feeling that you are looking down from above on the room and on your own body lying in bed — are common. Several people (including myself, once, with viral pneumonia) have felt they are slipping down a long tunnel with a bright light at the end, and that it is easier and pleasanter to go on sliding towards it. As a paediatrician in *The Noble Tradition* says, a tiny baby in an incubator is not fighting for its life, it is "desperately trying to die".

For those frightened of death, the most comforting as well as the most interesting idea to emerge from this worthwhile book is that the death instinct is as important and as positive as the life instinct. The spiritualist medium insists that "life doesn't matter as such" (I specially like the "as such"). An analyst says, "We are handicapped if we have only the life-wish," and a moral philosopher speaks of the "transcendental egotism" of the desire for immortality. The analyst's observation that those most scared of dying are those who are

"very attached to their own personalities" may not be contradicted by one interviewee whose terror springs from the fragility of her "me-ness"; she feels like balsamwood held together with glue, and permanently death-threatened.

The anthropologist speaks of ethnocentrism, which means "a local attempt at absolute knowledge". The archdeacon, who believes in Heaven, illustrates this concept when he says that for some people Heaven is perceived as a decent semi with a good garden, while for himself it might be "listening to late Beethoven and eating grapes". No one in this book believes in Hell — as such. The medium, who is very good value, thinks dead souls are "just floating about by themselves", and that the ones who

THE RUFFIAN ON THE STAIR:
Reflections on Death
Edited and introduced by
Rosemary Dinwiddie
Viking, £14.99

THE NOBLE TRADITION:
Interviews with the
Medical Profession
By Danny Danziger
Viking, £14.99

respond to ouija boards and other frivolous devices are "riff-raff, by and large". The spirit world is no respecter of persons. "People like Henry VIII, who are always coming back, are very basic spirits and have an awful lot to learn."

The healthy-living industry, especially in America, has a pathological subtext which suggests that if you perform certain dietary and other rites you will sidestep death. Less neurotic is the terminal patient to whom Rosemary Dinwiddie's book is dedicated, a Catholic who saw no point going to Lourdes, even for a miracle, because "I've still got to die, I'm not going to live for ever." Medical doctors may have their own special problems of death-denial. As Jonathan Miller says, death for them is just something that happens to a "special category of person called 'patients'".

Danny Danziger, in *The Noble Art*, has interviewed clinicians, researchers, nurses and paramedics, all named, from every speciality you can think of — and

Dr Anthony Clare (books like these have to include one person whom everyone has heard of). He is not alone in conceding that it was the "romance and drama" of medicine which attracted him to the profession. "I like the corridors of hospitals, I like the nurses, I like the gossip and the politics," says the geriatrician.

Those most excited about their work are those involved in new techniques for inspecting, repairing or removing bits inside the body by means of computerized X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging, and the manipulation of tubes, probes and telescopes. They speak lyrically of the "beauty" of the inside of a bowel or a Fallopian tube. Non-invasive procedures and microsurgery are coming between the traditional surgeon and his bank-balance.

But the surgeons still feel like gods. They love the rituals and the hierarchies of the theatre. "The operating room is lovely... It's like an extremely posh restaurant." They love the robing, the solemnity, the handwashing, the first incision. The ENT surgeon is never tired after a day's operating. What exhausts him is talking to patients, "which I find wearying, and not at all exhilarating". A vocation for medicine is not necessarily a vocation for caring about people.

The interviews reveal how much cynicism, disillusion and frustration there is in the profession because of the "strangling" of the NHS. It is not the commitment of the GPs, nurses and overworked hospital doctors — "grey shells", some of them, by the time they are 50 — that is in question here, but the impossible situations in which they find themselves.

Most English people die in a hospital which is likely to be understaffed and underfunded. The inhabitants of North Uist in the Hebrides are luckier; there, says their GP (one of the handful for whom medicine is in truth a noble profession), the atmosphere at a deathbed is "calm and almost jocular". One death-scared woman in *The Ruffian on the Stair* would not feel so bad if it could happen at home, "with the dog on the bed". The best way to go is Penelope Betjeman's, as described by Jonathan Miller: "She was leading a trip in India. She got off her donkey, and sat on a rock, and said, 'Isn't that nice', and fell off it, and was unconscious and dead."



Man or woman, even

Perhaps it had to come, but this gardener, at least, is horrified. *Plants For Profit*, subtitled "Dozens of Ways to Make Gardening Pay" more than anything else made me want to leap away to country lane or wild hillside (if such are still to be found un-bulldozed, sprayed or negotiated away as planning gain) to wonder and admire for the sheer delight of it.

This book is a product of our times, and a curiously distressing form of it, akin perhaps to those exquisitely crafted expensive and horrible flower jewels that so absolutely miss the point. People may sell plants to recoup their costs, to support charitable enterprise, or to make a living (even the nurseryman delights in his produce), but to set out from the beginning to profit from your plants, this just seems wrong. The blue rose on its cover on closer inspection turns out to be made of £5 notes: that says it all.

One thing that may have influenced my interperate reaction to this well-meaning book was surprise at discovering its author to be a woman: I had assumed it to be by a man. When you think you can tell the difference, it is disconcerting to be proved wrong. It is today's unisex approach yet again leaving us the poorer, or do we, in this age of extreme sexual sensitivity, just have to find new labels for what we can clearly recognize as different approaches to writing?

Joyce Robinson's *Glorious Disarray* (Michael Joseph, £14.99) is an interesting example. Though in its way a book very much by a woman, in its texture, tone and approach, it yet reminded me curiously of a Henry Moore bronze, in something of a strong, quiet, containment, female expressed by male.

Glorious Disarray describes the creation of Denny's justly famed Sussex garden. Creation is perhaps the wrong word, suggesting as it does a single act, a complex whole brought into existence by the waving of a magic wand. When one

Death a

Alexander Kent (aka Douglas-Reeman) is an old hand at a naval historical novel. After reading some of the newer fellows, it is a relief to fall into a book which you know will be well constructed, well written, which has an exciting story to tell.

As a former naval officer, Alexander Kent knows what it is like to be at sea — and in the twentieth book of the series, *Richard Bolitho*, his sailor hero, now a vice-admiral in 1806, is hastening to Cape Town where the Army is attempting to capture the town from the Dutch, allies of the French. The war is not over, Napoleon is not defeated. By a daring manoeuvre of a fireship, the Dutch ships are destroyed — but at a cost, which Richard Bolitho never forgets, in men he has got to know and admire.

The book ends with the second Battle of Copenhagen, but before he has been on a secret mission to the Danes, and been betrayed on his return across a stormy North Sea. Action at sea and at home — his love Catherine (like Nelson's Emma, the wife of another man) would ruin his career, were it peacetime. As it is, many friends and some of his family cannot accept their open

This dual biography of the Churchills is advertised as "the career of one of the most remarkable figures of the century... considered from the perspective of the central relationship of his life". I have greatly enjoyed Richard Hough's earlier books, especially his biographies of Mountbatten and his wife, Edwina. These were thoroughly researched, they made good reading at the time, and their place on the shelf has been more than justified by the many times they have since been consulted. Lately, however, Mr Hough has taken a trip down-market.

This biography of the Churchills makes easy reading and covers

Roll up for the Winnie and Clemmie show

Hugo Vickers

WINSTON & CLEMENTINE:
The Triumph of the Churchills
By Richard Hough
Bantam Press, £16.95

most of the points. It remains essentially Winston's book, and I suspect that Mr Hough feels more at ease with him than with Clemmie. At £16.95 for some 540

pages, nobody can say he does not give value for money. On the other hand, what does he give? He has rewarded the rich and always rewarding source of Martin Gilbert's companion volumes to the official biography. He delves into his own earlier works on the naval battles of World Wars I and II, and his biography of Lord Fisher. He relies heavily and always enjoyably on the admirable and elegant prose of Lady Violet Bonham Carter and Lady Soames. But, beyond that, he does not go far. There was little in this book that any Churchill reader

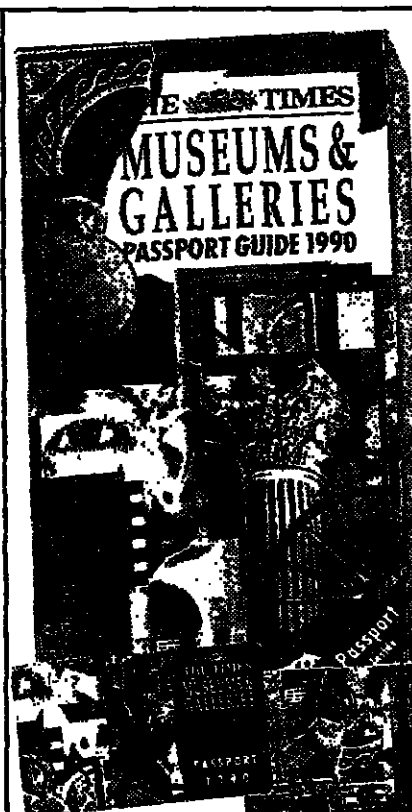
did not already know, and I found the novelistic passages (in which he switches to the first person) rather irksome. It made me wonder if perhaps this was a treatment for some future television special: "Winnie and Clemmie".

Then, alas, the book is peppered with literal errors. Maurice Bonham Carter marrying Cynthia Asquith on one page. Violet Asquith on another. Frewin rather than Frewen. Hakewill rather than Hakewill Smith. Averill rather than Averell Harriman. Had Mr Hough looked further afield, he might also

have revised certain statements. He writes of Sunny Marlborough that "their friendship had easily survived political differences", yet in 1918, the duke wrote of the Churchills: "I do not mean to go into their house again — till order reigns in this country — and they have learnt their proper place." And he makes the brave assertion that "for all his married life, (Winston) remained innocent of adultery". I think Hough should have at least discussed the possible role of Viscountess Castlerosse in this matter. In September 1936, she

and Winston were staying with Maxine Elliott in the South of France. Winston wrote to the absent Clemmie: "We have here only Doris, a young French film actress (very pretty but not very successful)". Churchill painted a rare portrait of the sultry long-legged blonde, now in the Marquess of Bath's collection of Churchilliana at Longleat. Other guests at the house at the time have suggested that Mr Hough might be wrong, but it must be said that there were no rules where Doris was concerned, and Churchill was depressed at the time.

I fervently hope that Mr Hough's next book will emulate his earlier works, rather than the last two.



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Exclusive affection for a small tortoise

Anyone who has been on intimate terms with a tortoise will agree with Roald Dahl that they are "nice little things". They are not demanding, like cats, or frisky, like dogs, or talkative, like parrots, or sly, like snakes. They potter about in a comfy and dignified fashion, and there's every reason why widowed Mrs Silver, living alone in a high-rise flat, should give all her love to Alfie, who has a little abode on her balcony.

Alfie, however, rouses jealous passions in old Mr Hoppy, who lives in the flat above. For Mr Hoppy would like to give all his love to Mrs Silver, but is frustrated by a native shyness, and by the exclusive affection that the lady lavishes on the tortoise. How can he direct her amorous enthusiasm away from the tortoise and towards himself?

His chance comes in the course of a balcony-to-balcony conversation, when he discovers that Mrs Silver is deeply agitated by Alfie's failure to grow. In 11 years he has only put on three ounces, and she believes that being so tiny is making him miserable. Mr Hoppy is inspired. With wonderful guile he produces a magic incantation, learned "from a Bedouin tribesman", which will unfailingly make tortoises grow.

Esio trot, esio trot, Teg reggi reggi Emoc no, esio trot...

and with fiendish ingenuity he devises a plan that will assuredly convince Mrs Silver that the for-

have revised certain statements. He writes of Sunny Marlborough that "their friendship had easily survived political differences", yet in 1918, the duke wrote of the Churchills: "I do not mean to go into their house again — till order reigns in this country — and they have learnt their proper place." And he makes the brave assertion that "for all his married life, (Winston) remained innocent of adultery". I think Hough should have at least discussed the possible role of Viscountess Castlerosse in this matter. In September 1936, she

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One of the great attractions of crime fiction is the way in which the reader can be drawn into an unfamiliar but compelling world. By a quirk of good fortune, the four books reviewed here are enriched by excellent descriptions of alien but fascinating environments, all on the fringes of normal or accepted society.

Tony Hillerman's *A Thief of Time* is one of his best. It tells the story of the involvement of a Navajo Indian lieutenant, Joe Leaphorn, in an investigation into the disappearance of a woman anthropologist, who might or might not have been stealing pots from ancient burial sites in the sacred Navajo mountains. The writing provides a rich portrait of the intricate and subtle undercurrents of the tribal Navajo Indians, whose private philosophy offers a magical and mysterious background to the complicated detection of a series of interlocking crimes.

Deep ecology is a fundamentalist philosophy popularized in the early 1970s by a Norwegian philosopher who writes quirky but enjoyable books, full of *Gestalt* and *holism*. Bill Devall has written a serious and lucid account of this radical green creed. It is written against a backdrop of disappearing North American wilderness and, reading it in the idyllic English countryside in the warm spring rain, I felt in full sympathy with its values.

However, although Devall claims to tell us how to live a green life, he offers only principles, although there are a lot of these. Deep ecologists meditate; they evolve strategies, study conflicts, invent terms, offer initiatives, provide guidelines, and finally, unsurprisingly for an academic global elite, recommend that we see ourselves as students, not stewards of the earth. They think Taoist, adapt rituals from American Indians and mix Buddhist maxims with martial arts metaphors, but

Messages

It is a tale told at three levels: the clever unravelling of clues of painstaking detection, coupled to an imaginative insight into the motives of men and women; an unselfish yet memorable picture of the uneasy juxtaposition of ancient myths and beliefs with the modern-day aspirations of tribal Indians; and the hero's reluctant but final acceptance of the death of his beloved wife. All this set in an exotic and haunted landscape.

Jim Thompson (born 1906, died 1977) has recently been rediscovered by critics who place him on the same pedestal as Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. However, although Thompson's books deal with the violence and low life associated with the hard-boiled American school, his heroes, unlike those of Hammett and Chandler, are neither moral crusaders nor

How to think like a

Anna Bramwell

SIMPLE IN MEANS, RICH IN ENDS:
Practising Deep Ecology
By Bill Devall
Green Print, £7.99

concrete recommendations are limited to civil disobedience and "direct action" to protect endangered areas.

Deep ecologists believe that Nature is inherently benevolent, that if you "think like a mountain", "sing like a river" and become "one with the earth", you can avoid painful conflicts and choices. To them, only man is cruel, not Nature. They reject reformist greens on the grounds that the reformists think of narrow human well-being rather than the more inclusive well-being of all living beings. But is an inclusive well-being possible? In the long-term, Nature is not benevolent.

S

serious gardener must delight in his toil, says Ruth Stungo

All muck and good, hard work

fronted at me of year attempts at it garden-the newly-lled turtling past of plan-

GARDENING

PLANTS FOR PROFIT
By Barty Phillips
Piatkus Books, £10.95

bedding plants temporarily ng their earth), it is all too us that such short cuts don't ly work. Evolution and devent are more what it is about 's what you put in that really s.

What comes across above all is a simplicity and inevitability, deceptive of course, signs of a workman who knows his material through and through. A curious comparison, perhaps, but rather like when you read accounts of outstanding bravery; that sense that it had unquestionably to be just that way, inspiration, information and good sound sense are all there in what, far better than any instruction manual, would be an ideal book for a timorous beginner.

Another master of his subject is Allen Paterson, director of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, and a considerable herb enthusiast. His *Herbs in the Garden* is now available in paperback (J. M. Dent, £8.95). Long years of experience growing herbs

elbow as she walks her garden round, or perhaps sits at the end of the day recollecting what it was and how it might be.

on both sides of the Atlantic have given him a unique viewpoint, and in turn gives this book a satisfyingly worldwide, multi-faceted approach, far removed from the fussy homespun nature of so many books on the subject. We are invited to question some accepted ideas about what herbs are: what, for example, are *forssythia* and *magnolia* doing here alongside the more familiar *thyme* and *rosemary*? (The answer lies in his chosen definition of herbs simply as plants useful to man.)

Allen Paterson was for many years curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, and his familiarity with the writings of its early apothecaries and gardeners has been put to good use. As well as the great Philip Miller of *Gardeners' Dictionary* fame, his less well known namesake and contemporary, the apothecary Joseph Miller, author of the 1722 survey of medicinal herbs *Botanicum Officinale*, is quoted extensively. Their common quest for a level-headed, scientific approach to the knowledge of their own time resonates in sympathy with Allen Paterson's account of the state of the art today.

How pleasant it is to follow a teacher so rollicking and fresh in his style, so able to bind together practical information on distribution of species and ecology, and architectural use of plants in garden design, as well as telling you how to preserve and use them in the home. And always the approach is by explanation and interpretation, rather than simple prescription. Ornamental herb gardening, he points out, is not a long-lived tradition, but something which sprang into life only at the beginning of this century. Use of herbs for their medicinal value, on the other hand, has a history as long as man's own yet here, too, there is an awakening to new possibilities. When major drug manufacturers are showing a revived interest in plants as a source of drugs, his extensive quotations from the Chinese *The Barefoot Doctor's Manual* has an increased significance. This is a thoroughly modern herbal.



Down the garden path: illustration from *Glorious Disarray*

and danger on the high seas

on, and his the jealous extravagant nda, wastes opportunity ppose him, he only, vio- is, of course, h death in ie, from ty-

HISTORICALS

Philippa Toomey
THE ONLY VICTOR
By Alexander Kent
Heinemann, £13.95

is particularly good at convey- the changes and chances in a career - secure in promotion, in battle the next day.

Dark Wood Wandering, by la-S. Hasse (Hutchinson, 95). First published in Holland 949, this huge historical novel been revised and edited by is Miller from a translation by is C. Caplan. It tells the story of ries of Orleans from the day of 'ark' to the day of his death, 75 a later. Nephew of the mad g Charles, his father murdered a feud with the Duke of gundy, he was captured at ncourt, spending 25 years in livity. He married three times - boy to the widow of Richard II, some, daughter of the house of agnace, and to his niece Marie Clives. Their son, born three s before Charles's death, would ouis XII. Had Charles not been

that the peace-loving and amiable Charles was an essential part in exceptionally turbulent and unsettling times.

● *The Wingless Bird*, by Catherine Cookson (Bantam Press, £12.95). At Christmas 1913, serving in her father's sweet shop in Newcastle, Agnes Conway encounters her future husband and fate over the purchase of two dozen sugar mice. Upward aspirations for a clever young woman and her pretty sister in Spring Street collide with the views of the Farrier family, who become her in-laws when she marries into the gentry. Catherine Cookson is at her most convincing when describing hardship and misery - her characters less powerful when happy and contented. As ever, a gripping story ending in the 1920s, with a coda in 1949.

● *The Regency*, by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles (Macdonald,

£12.95). Thirteenth in a series called "Dynasty": constant look-ups of the family trees of the intertwined Morland and Chelmsford families will be needed if you start here. Heiress to the Yorkshire Morland fortune is Fanny, 12 at the beginning of the book in 1807, 19 at its end - a spoilt, clever girl with all the worst impulses, at war with her step-mother Henrietta. Several romances evolve and end, happily and unhappily - an undemanding, pleasant book, particularly for those already in the know and panting for the next instalment.

● *Empress*, by Graham Masterton (Hamish Hamilton, £13.99). Lucy Darling, growing up in a small town in Kansas, longing for more than to marry her childhood sweetheart, is brutally raped by her uncle, and shortly afterwards inherits his Californian oil well. Taking her father into high society on the East Coast, she marries an aristocratic young Englishman, who eventually becomes Viceroy of India. Dark secrets of her birth mingle with dark secrets about practically everyone, with a number of violent sex scenes lingeringly described. Melodrama with a high improbability factor.

The rise and fall of a newspaper dynasty

Anthony Quinton reads the story of the passing of an institution, which marked the end of the Fleet Street tradition

THE HOUSE THE BERRYS BUILT:
Inside The Telegraph 1928-1986
By Duff Hart-Davis
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.95

borough column for 25 years until his death in 1959. Coote is characterized by Hart-Davis as idle and aloof, and many instances are given of his inability to respond to the delivery of information with anything but the remark "I know, I know", a disabling weakness in a newspaper editor. Wortham was an Edwardian relic, who wore a grey Derby hat to work and knew about claret, music, trains and his uncle, Oscar Browning.

To the unprofessional reader, the

most interesting thing is the extent to which Camrose and Hartwell ran the paper. Editor-in-chief was not an honorary title for them. They were not concerned, like Beaverbrook, to influence policy or, primarily, to make money. They inherited an emphasis on news for its own sake from the preceding regime, and for both it remained the overriding priority. The intensity of their involvement had some bad effects, particularly during the Hartwell period.

Unlike his father, Lord Hartwell was not financially expert, and so the paper had neither organization nor reserves when it ran into trouble in the early 1980s. Because of extreme shyness, he was even more remote than his father had been, so that when he was told anything it was what his informants thought he would like to hear. When financially expert people did get involved, in the last catastrophic phase of Berry control, they were amazed at the amateurism they uncovered.

Duff Hart-Davis's dramatic technique and emphasis on individuals makes this a succulent piece of reading. He has assembled a mass of well-organized detail, paid it out at an accelerating pace, concluded it with high drama in the Hilton Hotel at Kennedy airport, where the business was, in effect, handed on a plate to Conrad Black, and maintained throughout a splendidly unfudged clarity of utterance.



Portrait of a press baron: Lord Camrose in 1935. "He never succumbed to delusions of grandeur"

PAPERBACKS

from outside worlds

CRIME

Lisanne Radice
A THIEF OF TIME
By Tony Hillerman
Sphere, £3.50

te investigators.

The Rip Off (Corgi, £2.99). Simpson's anti-hero is a loser is constantly in need of money, ys at the mercy of un- pulous women, and frequently ple to understand the real ing of others' actions. Sur- ded by off-street gangsters, ming molls and unlikely cops. Rainisiler, son of a disgraced K'ian professor and the first an judge of the State Circuit st, finds himself in a surrealist

world which somehow has its own inner rationale. Fighting to survive marriage proposals, death threats, and the generally scurrious behaviour of his nearest and dearest, Rainisiler, despite the odds, eventually wins through. Jim Thompson's books are well worth rediscovering.

Maud Farrell's *Skid* (Women's Press, £2.99) gives us an insight into another, different, world: that of the closely knit lesbian community. Photographer Violet Childes, daughter of private eye Victor Childes, sets out to discover who brutally shot her father on a New York sidewalk on St Valentine's Day. Violet's search for the killer finds her in a mental hospital where bizarre experiments take place and which is owned by her father's old enemy, the millionaire John Yardley. There is an intriguing

supporting cast of girl friends, ex-lovers and gourmet cooks, who mostly meet at Anita's, New York's famous lesbian night club. *Skid* provides a vivid and often moving account of an enclosed environment with its own ritual, taboos and committed friendships.

Michael Dibdin's *The Tryst* (Faber, £3.50), deals at different levels with a psychologist's failed marriage, her runaway patient's involvement with a glue-sniffing gang and an old man's fatal obsession with the past. This is a subtle, absorbing novel of despair and menace, a tale that is also illuminated by flashes of humour and enriched by a series of historical flashbacks. The intricate interweaving of the various strands is achieved by a careful balance of plot and character, but it is in the brilliant evocation of the three lost souls, Alice, Steve and Matthew, who form the core of this unusual mystery, that Michael Dibdin so skilfully succeeds.

Morality and style: the end of a story

There is a special fascination in unfinished works of art - Schubert's Eighth, Mahler's Tenth, Dostoevsky's *Idiot*, *Strange Meeting*, an awful temptation to second-guess greatness, supply resolutions and endings.

At his death in 1894, Stevenson left two novels incomplete. *Weir of Hermiston* has long - and rather oddly - been regarded as his masterpiece, in germ at least. *St Ives*, even in truncated form his longest novel, has been largely ignored, or dismissed as an uncertain sequence of cheap narrative shots, a symptom of Stevenson's galling tendency to set aside the darker metaphysical speculations of "Jekyll and Hyde" in favour of schoolboy romance.

In 1893 and 1894, the ailing Stevenson, exiled in Samoa, was increasingly desperate for funds to support a ruthlessly prodigal family. Even so, *St Ives* cost him more trouble than almost any other book, and there is little sign in it of willingness to accept short cuts.

In one sense, *St Ives* is the purest adventure story Stevenson wrote. It has little of the superficial narrative complication of *Treasure Island*, and little of the sweep of *Kidnapped*, though its geographical range is every bit as generous. *St Ives* is a soldier of Napoleon, imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle. He is an aristocrat, but a mere infantryman. Having rather self-consciously and unconvincingly fallen in love with a Scots girl, and after killing a fellow inmate who insults her, he learns that his uncle, a pre-Bonapartist exile in England, has disinherited an older cousin. *St Ives* escapes and makes his way south, where he "comes into his fortune" a great deal earlier in the proceedings than was David Balfour's lot in *Kidnapped*.

Everything about *St Ives* is carefully ambiguous. His social standing, his loyalties and affections, his very words are untrust-

FICTION

Brian Morton

ST IVES

By Robert Louis Stevenson
(Chapters XXXI-XXXIV by Jenni Calder)
Richard Drew, £4.99

worthy, like his creator, he is a cynical dandy, who makes a morality of style. Stevenson's genius, as in all his later work, is his subtle manipulation of voice, rather than the conventional fictional concerns of justice, fortune and marriage.

It is a quality easily missed (recent criticism has shown how very important late stories like "The Beach of Falesa" were bowdlerized and "normalized" by Stevenson's London editors, distant both in sea-miles from Samoa and in literary sympathy), and it is the quality that is all but absent from Jenni Calder's impeccably plausible conclusion, which draws on new manuscript findings. Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch had attempted a similar resolution of the plot in 1897, but as he himself recognized, his devices creaked fearfully.

It is possible to see in *St Ives* a journey into England and covert return to Edinburgh an unconscious echo of the Jacobite rising. At the start of his journey, the Frenchman has an encounter in the Border hills with Sir Walter Scott. Scott, too, ruined his health chasing royalties, and Stevenson slyly uses the incident to blur fact and fiction.

At his best when the social landscape was foggy and questions of legitimacy most acute, Stevenson was never more of a Scot than at the end of his life, when Scotland had sunk, slightly skewed, into his memory and imagination.

mountain

ances violently alter local climate, comets wipe out all life on Earth, oxygen-breathing life exists as result of the extermination of predecessors. Is optimistic Na- and the conflict-free commu- another unexportable Amer- dream?

By becoming empty, fully dy, Buddhist teachers say, we use full of possibilities," writes A. Well, there are some good among the plethora of pri- s, such as the voluntary priest- to care for nuclear and toxic d. And I liked the idea of a d Biosphere Reserve, floated ne Unesco-backed "Man and Biosphere" programme. The village near the Chilterns I it is currently threatened by a rene centre. I am sure it d put a stop to that. In fact, if d of England were declared a d Biosphere Reserve, many of conservation-versus-growth mas would vanish. I offer it y as a modest proposal.



The deer being attacked by wolves on this salt-glaze Doullion vase were modelled by Hannah Bolton Barlow in 1872. She liked to draw animals and used to cause consternation among her fellow female workers at Collin Campbell Minton's pottery studio

in South Kensington by her habit of bringing in mice, frogs and other livestock in her pockets. The illustration is from Cheryl Buckley's *Potters and Paintresses: Women Designers in the Pottery Industry 1870-1955* (The Women's Press, £16.95).

صك: ا من الاصل

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THE ARTS

New York: Holly Hill reports on August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*, which has won him a Pulitzer Prize

Keys to the black heritage

Musical metaphor: Charles S. Dutton and Rocky Carroll examine the carved heirloom that is the centrepiece of *The Piano Lesson*

Clive Davis
Bob Dorough
Pizza on the Park

THE word "hipster" might have been invented in honour of Bob Dorough. Now old enough to draw a pension, the Arkansas pianist still sports a generous ponytail, and, despite the blue blazer, is still the living embodiment of Fifties' cool.

Dorough has been a respected figure on the American cabaret roster since the early part of that decade. One of his earliest and most unusual jobs was working as an accompanist to Sugar Ray Robinson during the boxer's brief career as an entertainer. In 1962 he had the rare privilege of recording with a sextet led by Miles Davis.

Dave Frishberg and Blossom Dearie are two of the artists who have come under Dorough's benign influence. He composed the music for Frishberg's "I'm Hip", a satirical number aimed at all the would-be Kerouacs slumped on bar stools from San Francisco to Camden Town.

His high, fluttering voice and ironic wit work perfectly in a piano bar or small club. All he needs are sympathetic listeners who are in tune with most of the in-jokes. That element was sorely lacking at Pizza on the Park, where Dorough opened to a sparse audience which reacted with typically English reserve.

"I'm Hip" sunk without trace. Dorough had better luck with songs by Hoagy Carmichael, Johnny Mercer and Cole Porter, and "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening" was carried along on some robust chording. Like a jazz instrumentalist, Dorough's voice approaches each line of the lyrics from unexpected angles, bending and splicing the phrases at will.

His early tune "Devil May Care" was a reminder of his solid pop schooling. Some of his other originals — the ballad "The Sleeping Time", for instance — were not so distinguished. Like Frishberg, Dorough tends to slip into pathos when he slows the pace.

Like a Colossus of Rhodes bestriding worlds, August Wilson in his plays fuses everyday reality and dimensions beyond. He has just won his second Pulitzer Prize in three years, for his new Broadway drama *The Piano Lesson* (playing at the Walter Kerr Theatre), in which the past and the future wage war and the protagonist battles physically with a ghost.

Fourth in Wilson's cycle of plays about Afro-Americans in each decade of this century, *The Piano Lesson* is set in 1936. To the Pittsburgh home of his sister Berniece, Boy Willie journeys from the South with a truckload of water-melons to sell. Willie's ultimate aim, however, is to sell the heirloom he co-owns with Berniece. It is a piano on which their great-grandfather carved images of his family dispersed by slavery, and for which their father died. To Willie, the relic of the past is the key to future ownership of farmland on which his ancestors slaved; to Berniece, selling the piano would be a sacrilege.

This symbolic battle over the piano embraces the personal, family and racial heritage, and the spiritual and material future of Boy Willie and Berniece, their uncles, two friends, and the widowed Berniece's daughter. As is characteristic of Wilson, these issues unfold in extensive exposition in Act I, enlivened by a posturing worker's chant with an African zest, and a honky-tonk tune sung by the men.

In Act II, after comic and tender near-seductions (Wilson's plays exude sexuality), the conflict explodes in two wildly theatrical sequences. One combines two piano-movers, a drunk piano player, a preacher, and a character, with a gun, in action that is at once hilarious and scary. In the penultimate scene, Boy Willie wrestles with the ghost of a white family enemy — a ghost unseen by the

audience throughout the play except in shafts of light, billowing curtains, the sound of wind, and the sound and sight of the piano playing itself.

Boy Willie, played with nearly superhuman vitality by Charles S. Dutton, the electrifying actor who made his Broadway debut as the trumpeter, Levee, in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* — joins Ma Levee and Wilson's other protagonists in his gallery of larger-than-life characters. The supporting roles are superbly acted in Lloyd Richards's virtually flawless production.

Wilson's and Richards's fifth collaboration is the premiere, at

the Yale Repertory Theatre (where Richards is artistic director, and where *The Piano Lesson* began two years ago), of the dramatist's newest play, *Two Trains Running*. The place and time are a rundown Pittsburgh café in 1968. Although a waitress and a paroled bank robber attend a rally, the civil rights and black power movements appear to have barely touched the characters. With humour and subtlety, Wilson gradually reveals that appearances are deceiving.

The characters include the café owner, a deranged man, a numbers (illegal betting) runner, a millionaire undertaker, and a

religious man who proselytizes for an unseen prophetic some 300 years old. With great vitality, they spin tales of treachery from whites and from their own kind, weave their dreams, and try to get by. In its present version, however, *Two Trains Running* has no urgent conflict, and the character of the waitress, Risa, begs for development.

Young and lovely, Risa has scarred her legs to repel men. At a post-performance discussion, August Wilson disclosed that he did not know why Risa had cut herself and had decided not to find out. Wilson once said that he did not know how to write for the band in

Ma Rainey until a friend suggested that he go down into the rehearsal room and listen to them talk. Maybe he should take a Risa away for a weekend.

Wilson's first two plays, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Fences*, were tragedies. Subsequently, in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson* and *Two Trains Running*, he has created a new type of drama: plays of grace. His characters, in themselves and their heritage, have already suffered tragedies; as the action unfolds they transcend them, finding renewal directly or indirectly in combined strains of African and Christian spirituality.

THE most "cinematic" of Dickens's novels is the one with the last reel missing — a lack which has been filled by more than a dozen completists, including the late Felix Aylmer. David Buck's version of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (World Service, Sunday) kicked off energetically with Ian Holm as John Jasper, choirmaster and junkie, and with a healthy respect for the extant text. It is a vigorous, straightforward adaptation: "character" is signalled in capital letters as though following the instructions on the packet; no surprises here. If Jasper turns out to be the murderer, one's suspicious about the Dickens industry being a stuck record will be confirmed.

But 1953 (Radio 3, yesterday) took a liberty with *Andromache* in an extremely free adaptation by Craig Raine — Miller's *Tosca* by other means. Imagine that Germany triumphed in the last war, that London has been devastated, by gas and anthrax, and that the widow of the Prince of Wales (hanged) has been given to Mussolini's son as a kind of gift. Strain, probability yet further by picturing one Klaus von Orestes descending on Rome to reclaim the German princess to whom young Mussolini has been officially pledged. Then take leave of your senses and imagine a "Marian" poet rendering this farago in designer-vernacular — colloquial English. Raine sounds ridiculous when translated into rhyming couplets, but Raine achieved this effect off his own bat.

Raine's canon lives and breathes the perceptions of childhood. Perhaps he will have enjoyed *Dan Dare: Pilot of the Future* (Radio 4, Thursday), a four-part serial coinciding with the relaunch of the comic-strip hero in a revamped *Eagle*. Parachuting onto Venus with only a paralyzing pistol between them and perdition, Dan and Digby found that parody had been there before them. Colonel Dare, poor sap, is a pilot of the past, and no amount of "greening" will rescue him from his polychrome time-war.

Feminist princesses

Sheridan Morley

THE simplest ideas usually work best for arts documentaries, and it often takes a newcomer to think of them. Nicola Roberts, in her first television film for *Arena* (BBC 2), took Machiavelli's *The Prince* apart and put it together again for feminists.

Whether interviewing everyone from Antonia Fraser to Kate O'Mara, plundering archive footage of Marlene Dietrich as the Scarlet Empress, listening to Eartha Kitt wanting to be evil, or just watching schoolgirls applauding Joan Collins impersonators, Miss Roberts seemed to have no particular theory of her own, merely a vague curiosity about what ten years of Thatcherism had done to *femmes fatales*.

It was left to Julian Critchley to play his usual bemused Dr. Watson, arguably the best characterization of that role since Nigel Bruce in the Basil Rathbone movies. How much better, mused Critchley, if his leader could have been more like Laura Ashley than Elizabeth I, though quite what *William's* first wallpaper and fabric prime minister could have done for us was never explained by him or anyone else.

Somewhere between a feminist teach-in at a north London polytechnic and a panel discussion for

the *Little Show*, "the princess" roamed on around the archives, coming up with a hilarious if anonymous Lady Macbeth in full evening dress with matching pearls, and a woman who pointed out that American capitalism in the shape of Hoovers and microwaves had done a lot more for women than English sociological ideals. Nobody mentioned Imelda Marcos or Ivana Trump or Leona Helmsley, but I guess they were only princesses by marriage.

Into the usual wastelands of Friday night have come two strong new dramas from Australia. *Black Hill* (BBC 1) promises to be an immensely compulsive mini-series in which Denholm Elliott plays a disgraced Sandhurst officer starting a new life in Sydney. An unlikely affair with a local heiress leads him to Bangkok where he is reunited with his daughter in the infamous local prison of the title. Now view on.

Meanwhile ITV has started a promising new police series with Tim Pigott-Smith as a tough Nottingham cop moved to Norfolk as Chief Constable of East Anglia and there forced to deal with the local politics of policing as well as a political prison riot. Shot on its local patch by Anglia Television, which has already cornered the ITV territory in upmarket regional thrillers by way of P.D. James, *The Chief* is a cop show dealing with the usual mix of brute force and backroom manoeuvres, but it offers strong support for Pigott-Smith from Julian Holloway, and Judy Loe as the GP wife who brings him down to East Anglian realities. *Dixon of Dock Green* may at last have met *The Bill*.

Majestic revisiting of familiar orchestral territory

CONCERTS
Paul Griffiths

CBSO/Rattle
Town Hall
Birmingham

JUST a month ago the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under Simon Rattle gave a highly powered, richly alive performance of Schoenberg's First Chamber Symphony. Now they returned to the Town Hall to repeat that success at the start of a symphony concert, and to demonstrate how the stridency of the scoring makes it possible for this counterpoint of 15 instruments to cut through a big and resonant space.

Noël Goodwin
Neal Davies
Purcell Room

AMONG candidates from 14 countries, the Welsh bass-baritone Neal Davies was the chosen winner of the first BP-Peter Pears Award last October. This South Bank programme came as part of his prize. It disclosed a singer of considerable potential, but one whose techniques of voice production seemed unfinished. The good intentions in the first half of the programme were limited by a

lack of smooth changes in dynamic levels. Indeed, it was not until the Four Serious Songs by Brahms, at the end of the second part, that a true legato line began to emerge, to the great benefit of the sombre but deeply-felt setting of the German Biblical texts. Particularly in these songs, Simon Over took his attentive piano-playing to a close partnership with the voice.

It was good to hear English song being given pride of place to start each half. Finzi's five Shakespeare settings in *Let Us Garlands Bring* (one more than the programme listed) were sung with poetic sensibility. More varied character and smoother line would have

suited Vaughan Williams's *Songs of Travel*, as would clearer initial consonants: the line "I will give you brooches" reached my ears as a somewhat less pleasant wroe than Robert Louis Stevenson wrote.

The singer's evident enjoyment of comedy character was best demonstrated in Russian, with each one of his chosen songs by Dargomizhsky and Rachmaninov involving something more than just colouring and vocal inflection. Bert's *Don Quixote* songs in French were on the right lines without the assurance of an instinct for phrase and feeling that made his single encore, in what I took to be Welsh, so warm and free from constraints.

Barry Millington
Philharmonia/Bychkov
Festival Hall

THREE cheers for whoever thought up the Philharmonia's Festival Hall programme last night. It consisted of four items which although rarely heard, combined the qualities of musical value and accessibility. Bizet's Symphony in C is, admittedly, not exactly a rarity, but it is not given as often as it deserves.

However, the concerto in E Major by Mendelssohn and that by Bruch Op 88a, both for two pianos, are welcome additions to the repertoire. The Bruch is so little known that it even escapes the attentions of *Grove's Dictionary*.

It was composed for two sisters and played here by Katia and Marielle Labèque. The intimacy of their musical conversation, each responding precisely to the other in intonation, accent and colour, has one constantly marveling. That level of empathy, together with the many attractions of the work — which include an impassioned slow movement wor-

thy of Rachmaninov — made a considerable impression.

The Mendelssohn concerto, delicate and urbane where the Bruch is rhetorical and demonstrative, brought the unique qualities of the Labèque sisters into even sharper focus. Here the grace with which they tossed phrases at each other, caught them, and lobbed them back was truly breathtaking. Yet the Mendelssohn that emerged was anything but effete, especially with Semyon Bychkov obtaining such sharply pointed, rhythmically taut playing from the Philharmonia.

If Mendelssohn was still only 14 when he wrote that piece, Bizet was a ripe old 17 when he composed his masterly Symphony in C. The particular attraction of the work is the ease with which the young Bizet was able to marry his classical education to his Romantic inclinations. There are many pre-echoes of the familiar mature style, not least in the Adagio, where John Anderson's languorous oboe solo briefly transported us from damp London to the Mediterranean. Berlioz's exuberantly scored *Ritorno Notturno di Madrid* opened the programme.

Melodrama of child murderer in love lacks credibility

DONALD COOPER

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale

The Awakening
Hampstead

JULIAN Garner has inadvertently written a play as topical as the argument about Rule 43 in our prisons. Unfortunately, that only emphasizes its weaknesses. If one is effectively to debate the proper treatment of child murderers — not to mention the conflicting claims of charity and revenge — one had better be scrupulous about couching one's thoughts in a plausible plot.

In the programme Garner tells us that in 1930s Norway, the time and place of his play, lifers were sometimes allowed to toil on Alcatraz-like island farms. No doubt he is right. One wonders, however, if the penologists of that period were as eccentric as he suggests. If it is unwise to send an alcoholic to a brewery at all, it is quite mad to incarcerate him there as part of his rehabilitation process. That is what Linda Bassett's social worker does to Cop O'Neill's glazed, shuffling Johannes, who has raped and murdered an eight-year-old.

She leaves him on an island seemingly inhabited only by the young woman she named a few years before, a gamine named Uun. Within moments Johannes is chopping wood with a vast axe, and agonizing over the sexier passages in his Bible.

As it happens, the ominous build-up is a cheat. Melodrama becomes romance, at least for a time. Instead of chopping up Gab-

Linda Bassett and Con O'Neill in *The Awakening*

rielle. Reidy's feasting Uun, O'Neill impregnates her: a development which would itself be more credible, and carry more weight as a demonstration of the redemptive power of love, if it did not occur during the interval.

Nor has the play pulled its last sensation. Who should Bassett, her Christian tolerance undone by the whiff of fornication, meet in the island chapel but the prison warden who spent Scene One beating up Mr O'Neill — and who should he turn out to be but the father of the murdered child, thirsty for vengeance?

When one is considering what to do with our own Ian Brady, the pain of the victims and their parents cannot be forgotten. There must, however, be more guileful ways of reminding us. Garner will surely produce better plays than this. He can write punchy, gritty dialogue as well as think about big, interesting subjects. Not least, he and John Dove, his director, have conjured a fine performance from O'Neill, with his hoarse, impersonal voice and robotic body-language, and the impression he gives of cowering from some bright light. This is someone who has been humiliated, broken, and terminally institutionalized.

Yet that too dramatizes the play's limitations. Could this grizzled spectre really evolve into a Lawrence hero? Awakenings of hard cases are more hard won than *The Awakening* suggests.

Alistair Cameron

Crow
Changing House
Will ye dance at ma wedding
The Arches

IT IS a remarkable testament to the present cultural vigour of Glasgow that two new theatres have opened within a day of each other. The Arches is a temporary venue, part of "Glasgow's Glasgow", a heritage exhibition which will remain open for most of the year. The Changing House will, it is hoped, be more permanent.

It is a second performance base for the enterprising Tron Theatre. Even more heartening is the fact that both theatres opened with new plays which had grown from recent work in the city, but which were quite different.

The small, comfortable Arches, built into a brick arch with rumbling trains above, was inaugurated by Clyde Unity, a young local company which designs much of its work for community touring.

In many ways its latest play, Aileen Ritchie's *Will ye dance at ma wedding*, is perfect for this theatre, since it offers (like the exhibition which surrounds it) a glimpse of Glasgow life which is accurate, nostalgic and unthreatening.

The story is a quintessential Glasgow tale: three women move in the early 1960s from the neighbourhood city centre tenements to the cold wastes of the housing schemes on Glasgow's periphery.

Marriage and murder figure in the plot which is neatly told, acted and staged, but which badly misfires at its emotional climax.

The Changing House at the Tron is smaller than The Arches, characterful and cramped in the loft of one of the theatre's out-buildings. The opening play was an adaptation by the director Michael Boyd and his company of Ted Hughes's *Crow*.

It has been set in a deliberately shabby Victorian theatre. Crow and his *doppelgänger*, dressed as vaudeville actors, perform Hughes's poems in front of and behind an elaborate red curtain, to the real audience on stage with them, and to an imaginary audience in an auditorium beyond the proscenium arch. The production owes much to Eastern European theatre, but its dark power comes from the inventiveness and virtuosity of the company, allied to the unsettling misogyny of Hughes's work.

Boyd and his performers, Peter Mullan, Douglas Henshall and the singer Julia Dow, create some memorable stage images — notably when the Crows machine-gun the enthusiastic applauding imaginary audience. Even if the whole is not as satisfying as some sections, this is a welcome attempt to put into practice in the Scottish theatre the techniques of the Soviet companies who performed here last autumn and so impressed Glasgow audiences.

It is heartening that this latest batch of 1990 theatrical goodies is entirely home grown. For Glasgow to open one theatre in a week is a cause for celebration, but to open two is, as we say up here, "no bad".

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RECORDS

Obsessions with dreams



At home with the blues: Joe Williams offers a confident set

Clinkers and all

JAZZ

Clive Davis

The Newport Jazz Festival All-Stars: Ben Carter '89 (Concord CCD-4401)
Gene Harris & The Philip Morris Superband: Live At Town Hall, NYC (Concord CCD-4387)
Joe Williams: In Good Company (Verve 837932)

As this newspaper reported on Monday, the main jazz event in New York last week was the gala tribute to George Wein at Carnegie Hall. Never one to take a back seat, the impresario-cum-pianist helped the proceedings along with a set from his all-star band.

Despite the constant to and fro of personnel, the group has turned in consistent performances over the years, raiding the swing catalogue for concert sets that bring together battle-hardened survivors from the Thirties and Forties and the best of the newer musicians, among them Scott Hamilton. The carefree atmosphere — clinkers and all — makes a welcome change from the stage-managed theatrics of most festival bands.

The line-up which played at the Ben International Jazz Festival last April kept up the old standards, helped by the steady rhythm team of drummer Oliver Jackson, bassist Eddie Jones and one of the newcomers, guitarist Gray Sargent. Hamilton was still holding down the tenor saxophone spot, next to the former Ellington alto and clarinet player Norris Turney. The other new boy on the occasion was Ricky Ford, a saxophonist whose best work has been as a member of Abdullah Ibrahim's Ekaya.

Hearing Ford and Hamilton side by side is a bizarre experience, as if the ghosts of Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster are stalking the stage. The closing

number, a reprise of Basie's "Jumpin' At The Woodside", finds the two men slugging it out before reaching an honourable draw. On some of the other pieces Ford's soloing is perhaps too bop-oriented for this setting, but Hamilton — currently on tour in Britain — is a constant delight. Turney is not to be forgotten; his solo on "I'm Just A Lucky So And So" builds to a forceful climax. Cornet player Warren Vaché matches Hamilton note for note in their duet on "Blue And Sentimental". As at the Carnegie Hall concert, Vaché draws on graceful vibrato effects that, sadly, have fallen into disuse amongst most of his peers.

Gene Harris's live date with the 16-strong Philip Morris Superband is his first dud for some time. While Wein's band resembles a working unit, Harris's team sounds like a collection of fine musicians jostling for a place in the limelight. Handicapped by some superficial arrangements, the band indulges in overkill on a string of standards, from "Love Is Here To Stay" to "Old Man River". Harry Edison, trombonist Urbie Green and saxophonists Frank Wess and James Moody do their best in difficult circumstances. And, most frustrating of all, we hear all too little of Harris's earthy blues piano runs.

At 71, Joe Williams was still able to swagger through "Shake, Rattle And Roll" during the tribute to Wein. In *Good Company* offers a confident vocal set, with reed arrangements by Med Flory's Superband and duets featuring Shirley Horn and Marlena Shaw. Free of mannerisms, Williams's voice always looks for the shortest possible route through a lyric. While some of the ballads are perfunctory, Williams is at home with the blues, of course, as he proved in his years with Count Basie. "Ain't Got Nothing But The Blues" wraps up side one in considerable style.

JAZZ UPDATE

Poncho Sanchez: Chile Con Soul (Concord CCD-4406)
Tito Puente joins the percussion onslaught in a versatile collection which runs from "Con Migo" to a convincing stab at James Brown funk.
Chico Freeman & Brainstorm: The Mystical Dreamer (In-Out Records CD-7006)
Surprisingly accessible electric set from the neo-bop

saxophonist, recorded live in Paris. The band currently has another week to run at Ronnie Scott's Club.

Humphrey Lyttelton: Humphrey Lyttelton & His Band (Philips 838764)
Part of a "Best Of Diddley" series which includes work by Terry Lightfoot, Chris Barber and the Dutch Swing College Band. Dating from 1960 to 1983, the sessions reflect Lyttelton's mainstream work rather than his trad phase.

CLASSICAL

Hilary Finch

Mahler: *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*/Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen
Fischer-Dieskau/Berlin Phil/Barenboim (Sony Classical SK 44935)
Strauss: *Eine Alpensinfonie*/Don Juan
Symphony/Bloemstedt (Decca 421-815-2)
Strauss: *Also sprach Zarathustra*/Don Juan LPO/Tennstedt (EMI CDC 7 49851 2)
Schubert: *Symphony No 9* Saint Louis Symphony/Statkin (RCA RD60174)
Beethoven: *Symphony No 9* Academy of St Martin-in-the Fields/Marriner (Philips 426 252-2)

It is Mahler's ghostly trumpets which herald a new record label: Sony Classical has introduced itself with an extraordinary disc which reveals Fischer-Dieskau at his best, orchestral playing of rare empathy and finesse, and recording quality which tells the ear all it needs to know about a new "20-bit system", used for the first time here.

The boast of this latest technological experiment is, in layman's terms, to combine the best of analogue recording with all the advantages of the digital process. On this evidence, the sound does actually restore some of the space and "moisture" which can be missing in the sometimes arid perfection of the CD. It certainly brings a chilling presence to *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*'s "Night Watchman's Song", suspending wind and strings in a live, tremulous poise, filtering through the shudder of the side-drum, and enabling Fischer-Dieskau's voice to ring out in rude health from the high, clear summons, to the last, half-voiced cries of "Mitternacht, Feldwacht".

The glory, though, must go to Fischer-Dieskau himself, to Daniel Barenboim, and to the players of the Berlin Philharmonic, who penetrate to the very heart of *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* in performances which uncover an obsession with dream and death in which Freud is never far away. Fischer-Dieskau, moreover, has a special understanding of the "soldier" songs: his "Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen" is sung as if from behind a mist, yet has startling presence; irony and fear constantly restrain the rhythmic marching line in "Tambour'sell"; and a chilling light-heartedness makes the bitterness of "Revelge" bite deep.

The latest in so many recordings by Fischer-Dieskau of the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* shows a feverish intensity characteristic of this particular phase in his performing life. Pain is pressed out of the vowels, against a mere bloom of violin accompaniment; and, for the latent violence of "Ich hab' ein glühend Messer" the voice turns to near *Sprechgesang* to reach its expressive aims.

It was the example of Mahler as an "aspiring, idealistic and energetic artist" which spurred on Richard Strauss to complete his *Alpensinfonie*, with its Nietzschean undercurrents of striving and moral liberation through work. In this performance, the latest in Bloemstedt's continuing Strauss odyssey, ascent and forward movement is, indeed, all. Marked by the ardent pacing and meticulous attention to dynamics and balance which characterize Bloemstedt's Strauss, the symphony develops as a game of virtuoso metanarratives, tension built and released with deceptive ease and dramatic acuity.

As the mountain ascent is made, the lower strings stretch forward in firmly defined, long strides; sectional string playing is lithe, never distorted by spurious portamento. The summit is reached with finely engineered clarity, matched by the eloquence of the final wind and brass serenade in the epilogue.

This recording holds its own against any already in the catalogue, as does Klaus Tennstedt's recently released *Also sprach Zarathustra*, with the London Philharmonic. As *Zarathustra*, in turn, descends from the mountains to the lowlands of humanity, Tennstedt's acute sensitivity to nuance stretches the nerves of the piece to the full. He creates a vast dynamic range, from the quivering depths of another Strauss sunrise, to the almost feverish *élan* of the central "Freuden und Leidenschaften" turmoil.

Sudden shifts of orchestration are set upon with alacrity, with the wind serenade after the dance taking on an evanescent distance before the renewed luminosity of sweeping string passages. Both Bloemstedt and Tennstedt fill out their discs with the tone poem *Don Juan*; Tennstedt's is more vividly episodic, but also a shade more mannered than that of the more cumulative drama of the San Francisco players.

Slatkin and Schubert are not the most obvious partners: the conductor's own relationship with the LPO and with RCA has so far concentrated most notably on Elgar. But there need be no hesitation in approaching this disc: here is the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra on top form, with a warm, ripe string sound propelled by some of the most springing Schubertian rhythms on record. Leonard Slatkin looks more to Beethoven's Seventh than to *Winterreise* for his inspiration; there is more of dance than darkness in this great last symphony, and it is perhaps time that we heard it.

So often in even the most searching of performances, the insistent, almost minimalist use of repeated rhythmic patterns can become either anxiously restless or weighed down in symmetry. Slatkin finds the way forward by anticipating Bruckner in the motivation and scale of the symphony's grand design. By giving proper ballast to dotted rhythms, by allowing accompanying figures to tug hard, and by juxtaposing hard-working cog-wheels of rhythm against broad, swinging dance measures, he restores a sense of spontaneity.

A flicker of the finale of Beethoven's Ninth in Schubert's own pen leads me to Sir Neville Marriner's recent and rather more staid-laced Choral Symphony. "Not these sounds! Let us sing something more pleasant!" is the cry at the start of the choral finale;



Musicianship with technology: Daniel Barenboim conducts Sony's first "20-bit system" release

and this time, also, it seems to come from the heart. There is much fine playing here from the Academy of St Martin's, but Sir Neville operated with more clarity and logic than awe and wonder; his *molto vivace* and *molto adagio* are not really *molto* anything: precision, neat pointing and a certain grave beauty are the most he seems to aspire to until the "O Freunde" of Samuel Ramey, which lifts the performance on to another level. The contribution of the chorus, and a particularly fragrant blended quartet of soloists (Ramey is joined by Kacira Matilla, Anne-Sophie von Otter and Francisco Araiza) redress this otherwise unexceptional performance.

CLASSICAL UPDATE

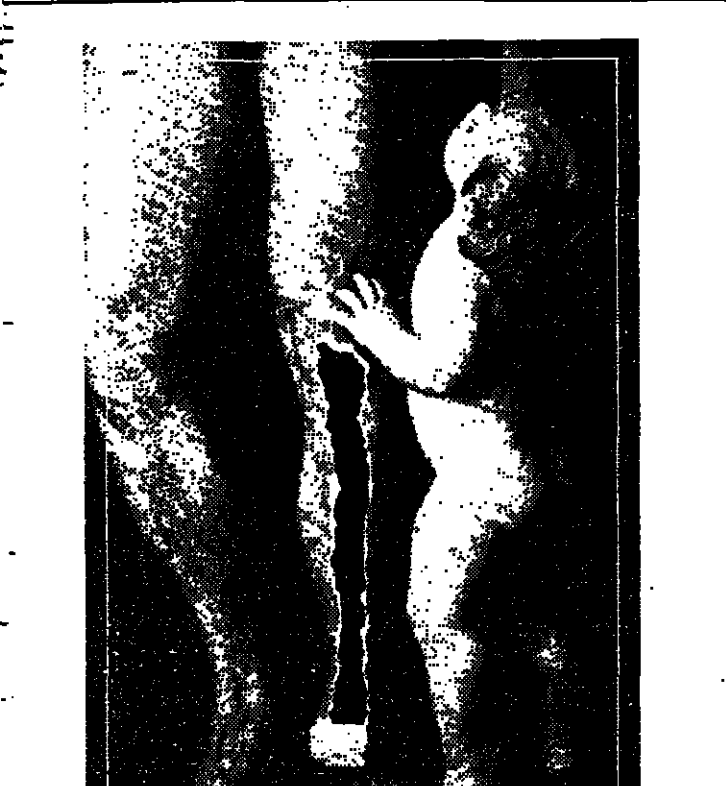
Webster: *Complete Vocal Chamber Works* Dorow, Schoenberg Ensemble/de Lesteu (Koch Schwann 314 005 H1)

A lusty collection of Webster's songs and choral pieces with ensemble, including works that have not been recorded before: three orchestral songs of 1913-14 and the tiny number associated with the quartet bagatelles.

Rager: *Symphonic Prologues for a Tragedy, Two Romances* Berlin Radio SO/Albrecht (Koch Schwann 311 078 H1)
Rager's prologue is a searching movement lasting for

more than half an hour and deserving to be heard alongside the contemporary works of Mahler, Schoenberg and Elgar. The romances are a Beethovenian pair with solo violin (Hans Maile).

Lindberg, Karpainen, Hämäläinen, Samstén: *Works* Endymion/Whitfield (Finlandia/Conifer FACD 361)
Useful introduction to Karpainen, soon to have a symphony played in London. But the dominant figure among these young Finnish composers is Lindberg, decisively sure even in an early piano quintet oddly engaging with the French baroque.



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WITHOUT YOUR HELP IT'S INCURABLE

If rock music appeared to die a death in Britain during the Eighties, resurrection looks swift. Happy Mondays, a six-piece band which combines compulsive dance action with a strong visual appeal, recently followed a European tour by playing to 16,000 fans over two nights at the G-Mex Centre in their native Manchester before selling out Wembley Arena a week later.

Even jaded industry people agreed the Wembley atmosphere equalled that of performances by the likes of U2, Prince and Simple Minds, while the fans preferred to vote with their feet.

Happy Mondays' hard-core fans followed them around the Continent. Some trekked as far as Iceland and Spain, while 200 travelled by coach to see them at the fashionable Bataclan Club in Paris. As Shaun Ryder, the group's singer, says: "Right now the Happy Mondays are the hippest band on the planet. We're the one that everybody wants to be in."

Their status has not been affected by the group having enjoyed two hit singles. They are at No 6 in the charts with *Step On*, their cover of the John Kongos classic. Their debut appearance on *Top of the Pops* was made late last year with *Hallelujah*, on which they were accompanied, somewhat surprisingly, by singer-songwriter Kirsty MacColl.

"I reckon they are the sexiest band around," she explained.

ROCK UPDATE

Ruben Blades y son del Solar... Live! (Elektra 7559-60888-1)
Brazilian salsa star with a rousing double album recorded last year at New York's Lone Star Roadhouse. Sny poussou, regal horns, Spanish language vocals, and tremendous atmosphere give performances of favourites like "Pedro Navaja".

Beats International: Let Them Eat Bingo (Go Beat 842 196-2)
Norman Cook's collective with a diverse and rewarding album that takes the policy of blurring the line dividing dance from indie music to its logical

conclusion. Includes the recent No 1 "Dub Be Good To Me", featuring Lindy Layton.

Little Feet: Representing the Mambo (Warner Bros 7559-26163-1)
Five original members plus vocalist Craig Fuller and guitarist Fred Tackett follow-up 1988's *Let It Roll* with a more full-blown slice of Southern rock-a-boogie funk.

Heart Brigade (Capitol ESTU 2121)
High calibre adult-orientated rock from the Canadian veterans. Fine performances from both the Wilson sisters, and a gutsy production by Ritchie Zito that puts the new Fleetwood Mac album to shame.

Hip, but never hop

Subsequent colour spreads in magazines as diverse as *Smash Hits* and *Elle* indicate that Ms MacColl's opinion is shared.

Happy Mondays are no overnight sensation. They have been together since the early Eighties, having known one another since school-days. The nucleus of the band are brothers Shaun and Paul Ryder, who plays bass. Their father Derek, a former postman, is road manager. The group was spotted playing in Manchester by Northern soul DJ Phil Saxo who introduced them to Mike Pickering, for the past few years one of the biggest names on the dance music scene.

At the time he was a talent scout for Factory, the Manchester-based label run by Granada television presenter Tony Wilson. Mr Wilson had already had success with New Order, whose *Blue Monday* remains one of the biggest selling dance records. He saw similar potential in Happy Mondays. New Order's Bernard Albrecht produced *Freaky Dancing*, an early Happy Mondays single.

The title of that song embodies the band's unusual live effects upon their audiences. For alongside Shaun dances Mark Berry, whose frenzied routines have a near-hypnotic effect. Anyone

watching the prisoners on the roof of Strangeways on the news will have an idea of what it is like.

The combination of being a live band playing dance music is the key to the Happy Mondays success. For the past few years hip-hop and house music might have ruled in the clubs, but few would deny that the dance craze is running out of steam. What has been missing is a focal point for an audience's attention. This partly explained the appeal of live punk bands following the mid-Seventies disco revolution. Yet, however much audiences need to have some object for their attention and affection, they also want to dance.

Here Happy Mondays have been able to benefit from dev-

elopment of digital technology, which enables them to reproduce the acid house rhythms that their audience has become accustomed to in recent years. Their audience is also able to identify with the band's dress code of trainers and hooded tracksuit tops.

"But the Happy Mondays are not an acid house group," emphasizes their manager, Nathan McGough, son of Liverpool poet Roger McGough. "They're reckoned to be so because of their rhythms and tempo. But they also have a rhythm and blues-type feel like the Rolling Stones, which gives them the potential to appeal to black and Hispanic as well as white audiences. But they've only been able to communicate that

since the availability of sequencers and digital programming.

Tony Wilson, or Anthony H. Wilson as he prefers to call himself these days, reckons the transition occurred one weekend at Manchester's Hacienda nightclub two years ago. "Bez (Mark Berry) climbed on stage and started doing what is now recognized to be his familiar dance. This was incorporated into the Happy Mondays' stage act and the music changed accordingly."

Meanwhile as both Mr Wilson and Mr McGough point out, the group is more than just a popular live attraction and current chart act. "With hundreds of fans following them all over the Continent, Happy Mondays are as much about lifestyle and attitude as music," Mr McGough says.

Mike Nicholls

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 26 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

JOE JACKSON

The classic case of a man-over-qualified for the job, Joe Jackson came to rock with a degree from the Royal Academy of Music and experience of everything from cabaret duos to jazz big bands. He started out by using the bold primary colours of the new wave singer-songwriter on *Look Sharp!* and *I'm the Man* (both 1979). "It's Different For Girls" and "Fools In Love" essay the emotional tribulations of a gawky 24-year-old with caustic wit and a lean musical vigour. Various hare-brained schemes ensued, including forays into reggae and 1940s jump five, before the extraordinary *Night and Day* (1982), which found Jackson adding vivid shades of jazz, Latin and classical music to the palette, as well as supplying his biggest hit single, "Steppin' Out". It was not until *Blaze Of Glory* in 1989 that Jackson was again able to pull his versatile talent into such sharp focus, this time with a normally autobiographical selection that combines cracking musicianship with mature reflection.

MICHAEL JACKSON



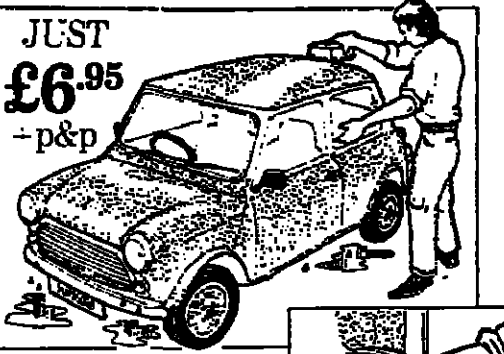
Michael Jackson

At 45 million copies sold, *Thriller* (1982) remains the best-selling recording of all time while *Bad* (1987) trails some way behind with sales currently around the 22 million mark. Although less subject to the triumphal bandying of statistics, perhaps the most satisfying of Jackson's solo albums is *Off The Wall* (1979), which has now sold a trifling 17 million copies. Said to be producer Quincy Jones's favourite, there is a warmth and soulfulness to tracks like "She's Out Of My Life" and "Rock With You" that got lost in the almost aseptic quest for perfection and a pneumatic dance nirvana that is the essential hallmark of *Thriller* and *Bad*. The mind-boggling scale of Jackson's achievements is unlikely to be matched in this century, since his child-star status, both solo and with the Jackson 5 — best chronicled on the *Anthology* double-compilation of 1981 — has given him more than 20 years in which to reach his current pre-eminence. The boy whose ambition was "to become a big star" has reached the book.

NEXT WEEK: The Jam, Jefferson Airplane

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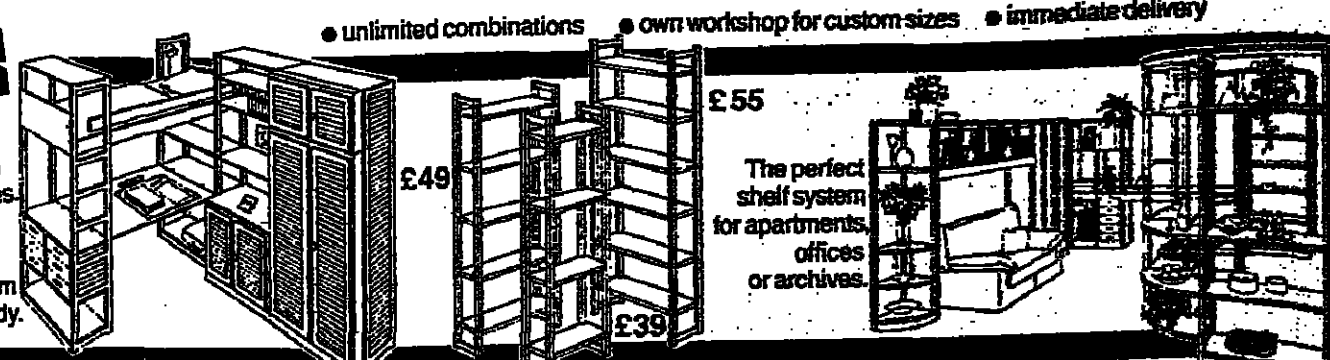
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THE TIMES **WHICH?** REPORT

Are you green - or just misled?

Some manufacturers' labels are misleading shoppers, Nicole Swengley reports

With the growing concern for the environment, more manufacturers are claiming that their goods are "green". But how justified are these claims, and how can shoppers make an informed choice between different products? The consumer magazine *Which?* interviewed 1,950 people to find out how much notice they take of green labels and what they understand by them.

It discovered that of the 60 per cent of shoppers who had seen products with environmental labels, nearly 60 per cent had bought at least one. Fifty-five per cent of shoppers shown a label making environmental claims thought it had been officially approved. When asked who they thought had approved it, the most popular guess was the Government (44 per cent). Of

those who correctly thought that goods carrying green labels do not require official approval, 83 per cent thought they should. Nearly 60 per cent of the people interviewed thought the Government would be the appropriate body to give such approval.

Which? also carried out a series of group discussions with the people responsible for doing the family shopping. There was a general feeling that some manufacturers are jumping on the bandwagon and using green labels as a sales ploy.

When a number of specific green labels were considered, it was discovered that people are confused about what individual terms mean and suspicious that the claims may be unjustified. The labels shown on this page highlight some of the typical problems.

GREEN DIRECTORY

Terms on the labels of green products are often not explained. Here is a glossary:

Biodegradable: This means that once the product is disposed of it breaks down naturally, usually because of bacterial action. Some products may biodegrade more quickly or more completely than others.

Chlorine bleach: The traditional chlorine bleaching of paper pulp produces toxic substances called dioxins, which pollute the water if discharged into rivers and lakes. They can also be found in very small quantities in paper products that have been chlorine-bleached, although there is no clear evidence that this causes health problems. Many manufacturers of paper products are now using alternative bleaching processes.

EDTA: This is used as a stabilizer for bleach in some detergents. It can combine with heavy metals in the environment, re-introducing them into the water supply.

Enzymes: Washing powders containing these are often marked as "biological". Enzymes digest protein and starch and are put into powders to help break down stains. They are not pollutants but may cause skin reactions in some people.

Mercury: This heavy metal is a component of many electric batteries and can cause air pollution if the batteries are incinerated. Many manu-

facturers are now reducing or eliminating the mercury in their batteries. Some batteries contain cadmium, which can cause the same sort of problems.

NTA: Some detergents use this as an alternative to phosphates, although it is not common in the UK. It causes the same sort of problems as EDTA.

Optical brighteners: These are compounds in washing powders that give the "whiter" look. They are not thought to be a main pollutant.

PDCB: This fragrance-enhancing chemical is sometimes used in products such as toilet blocks. It does not break down easily once it is in the water system.

PET: This is a type of plastic commonly used for bottles. PET can be recycled, although recycling schemes are limited.

Phosphates: These are put into many detergents to act as a water-softener and help cleaning agents work better. If enough phosphates get into slow-moving rivers and lakes they can encourage algae in the water to grow rapidly, using up the oxygen and causing plant and animal life to suffer.

Surfactants/surface active agents: These are cleaning agents in detergents. They can be made from plant oils but more often are made from petroleum products. All surfactants have to be biodegradable by law.

SCHEMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Environmental labelling schemes already exist in West Germany, Canada and Japan. Several other countries, including The Netherlands and France, are discussing setting up schemes.

West Germany. The Blue Angel environmental labelling scheme is by far the longest-running, set up by the West German government in 1978. Around 3,000 products now carry the Blue Angel logo, showing that they have met specific environmental criteria. These vary depending on the type of product and are decided in consultation with representatives from consumer and environmental groups and industry. Once a product has been approved, the manufacturer pays an annual fee for the use of the logo. Examples of products covered include those made of glass, metal, and those which use up fewer natural resources in the manufacturing process, such as recycled plastic and paper products. The scheme is voluntary, and some manufacturers devise their own labels.

Canada. The country's environmental labelling scheme has been running for more than a year. It is broadly similar to the West German scheme, although more emphasis is placed on the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle. The first three product categories to carry the logo are re-refined motor oil, insulation material made from recycled paper, and a range of products made from recycled plastic. Other product types being considered include sanitary paper products made from recycled paper, and a range of products made from recycled plastic.

Japan. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

France. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

Italy. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

Spain. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

Sweden. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

Switzerland. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

United Kingdom. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

United States. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

Other countries. A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

UNEXPLAINED CLAIMS

When *Which?* showed the labels below to the discussion groups, they were not considered helpful. Most people did not know what "no phosphates", "no NTA", "no enzymes", or "no optical brighteners" meant.

The term "biodegradable" was not fully understood, nor was the meaning behind the words "environmentally friendly pulp". None of the packets gave a proper explanation of what was meant by these claims, so it was difficult for shoppers to assess how important they were in environmental terms.

It is best if the information given on packs can be reasonably short and simple. The discussion groups, shown a packet of washing powder which gave lengthy explanations of the terms, were not helped.

Biodegradable
for a better world

No phosphates
No NTA
No enzymes
No optical brighteners

Not tested on animals

Contains no phosphates, nitrates or ammonia

It is misleading to put a "no nitrates" label on a cleaner when you can't buy one which does contain nitrates.

pH neutral, phosphate free: Similarly, a "phosphate free" label on a bottle of washing-up liquid suggests that other washing-up liquids do contain phosphates so this brand is environmentally better. But no washing-up liquids on sale in the UK contain phosphates.

Biodegradable: Likewise, all detergents are biodegradable to a large extent since the surfactants (the main cleaning agents) have to be at least 80 per cent biodegradable by law. Products where the surfactants are based on vegetable oils, rather than petrochemicals, may biodegrade more quickly.

Which? says: Claims like these should be allowed only when an alternative product does have the offending ingredient or property.

UNREALISTIC CLAIMS
It is helpful for a manufacturer to state what the packaging is made of and to say if it is recyclable. At present, though, plastic recycling schemes and collection points are few and far between. Consumers may be persuaded into buying a product partly because it has a recyclable label on the plastic container, but when it comes to disposing of it there is no local recycling point so it just joins the rest of the rubbish heap. However, if labelling containers in this way encourages people to think about recycling it may lead to more schemes.

Which? says: It is up to consumers to be wary of claims like this and to campaign for more local recycling schemes.

WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?

The *Which?* survey results and group discussions indicate that people are confused by the haphazard way green products are labelled. An official labelling scheme should go a long way towards alleviating this, and the survey shows a strong feeling that the Government should be the body responsible for overseeing it.

The Government has, in fact, recently announced support for the creation of an official labelling scheme across the European Community or, if necessary, a scheme of its own, although it has yet to release any firm proposals. If all goes well, there could be an agreement on a scheme by the end of this year.

The Government says that it is now committed to setting up a scheme with the assessment based on criteria reflecting the key characteristics of a product's environmental impact from production through to disposal.

It has also said that it is looking into amending the Trade Descriptions Act so that very general claims like "environmentally friendly"

and "green" would be banned. It is proposed that products would be awarded an official environmental label after scrutiny by an independent panel of environmental judges. These would include representatives from consumer groups, environmental groups, manufacturers and retailers. The scheme would be voluntary so manufacturers would not be compelled to submit their products to the panel, but the right to use an official green label would be a strong marketing incentive.

Which? This article is based on a report in *Which?* an independent monthly magazine available only on subscription. It tests and reports on a variety of services, including money, household appliances and other equipment, motoring, food and health and consumer rights. To find out more about *Which?* - including details of how you can get the magazine free for three months - please write to Dept T, FREEPOST, Hertford SG14 1YB, or telephone free on 0800 252 100.

Forest-saver's (0272 845559) mail order catalogue offers a range of paper made from Philippines cogan grass. This acid-free paper is of archive quality, and 10 sheets of A5 cost £1.95; five matching envelopes, £2.85.

Friends of the Earth's recycled stationery includes 50 sheets of A5 size Rainflower writing paper, with matching envelopes, £4.25; 50 white sheets with 25 envelopes, £3.25; 100 self-adhesive labels, £1.60. Add 90p p&p for orders up to £5; £1.80 up to £10; £2.50 up to £20. Friends of the Earth, 110, Cornwall TR27 6FE (0756 757777).

Karin van Heerden has expanded her range of recycled Peacocks Kingdom cards to include mini cards, for use as gift tags, and larger greetings cards. They cost from 35p to 85p each, from bookshops and gift shops. For stockists phone 0865 723660.

Yours Naturally Trading, 45 Shelton Street, London WC2 (01-497 2723), offers a wide range of recycled stationery, including presentation sets of writing paper with envelopes at £4.50.

High-quality Khadi Hand-made Papers, favoured by artists and designers, are made in southern India using cotton

rag. Thirty sheets cost £2.40; 15 envelopes, £2.40; from Falkner Fine Papers, 76 Southampton Row, London WC1; Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, London WC2; Pens Plus, 70 High Street, Oxford. Neal's also sells the papers under its own label at stores in London, Croydon, Reading, Kingston and Guildford.

James Bodenham, 88 Jernyn Street, SW1, which sells boxed sets of writing paper and envelopes with sealing wax, ribbons and seals, at £24.95, and Naturally British, 13 New Row, WC2, which offers hand-made postcards, £4.80 for four; a large folder with 10 sheets of writing paper and five envelopes, £26.99; a box of five letterettes (paper which folds itself into an envelope), £8.40. For other stockists phone 0559 370088.

Blank greetings cards made from recycled paper, with cotton-print motifs and sold in biodegradable packaging, are being sold nationwide by Aeron Cards. There are 44 designs. For local stockists phone 0540 470705.

Cornflowers, straw flowers, pansies, tulips, daffodils, dandelions and reeds are among the ingredients, much of which she grows herself. She will shortly be setting up a workshop at the National Museum of Wales (Woolen Mill branch) at Dowlais, Ffeilndre, near Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed (0559 370929). Stockists in London include



BILL FRANCES

EXCESSIVE CLAIMS

No manufactured product can fail to have some sort of negative impact on the environment. Labels claiming that a product is "environmentally friendly" are misleading. For example, even if the trees used to make paper products, such as sanitary towels, are from a properly managed forest, pulp and paper production are highly energy-intensive processes. Aerosol manufacturers may avoid using the most harmful CFCs as a propellant but the alternatives can still damage the atmosphere. Even electric batteries which do not contain the poisonous metals mercury or cadmium are a very inefficient way to use energy: it is estimated that manufacturing batteries takes up to 50 times more energy than the amount they produce.

Which? says: We think that very general labels such as "environmentally friendly" and "green" should be banned.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

DOES NOT CONTAIN PROPELLANT ALLEGED TO DAMAGE OZONE

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THE WEEK IN PREVIEW

GALLERIES

ANDY GOLDSWORTHY: Recent works by the environmentally friendly, hunter-gatherer sculptor who photographs the leaf, stalk, twig and ice patterns he makes in remote areas of countryside. Turnpike Gallery, Leigh (0942 679407). From Mon.

BRUCE McLEAN: Five new sculptures and a dance performance by a humorous, irreverent cynic about the piety and machinations of the art world. Amalfini, Bristol (0272 299191). From tomorrow.

JOHN LESSORE: Figurative paintings. Nigel Greenwood Gallery, London W1 (01-434 3795). From Wed.

ZADOK BEN DAVID: Recent sculptures by an artist who has made jokey, formally inventive pieces incorporating repeated animal patterns. Benjamin Rhodes Gallery, London W1 (01-434 1768). From Wed.

KIM LIM: Minimal stone carvings. Waddington Galleries, London W1 (01-437 8611). From Wed.

JOHN WARD RA: New paintings and drawings by a portraitist with a special interest in depicting beautiful women. Jeremy Maas Gallery, London W1 (01-734 2302). From Tues.

JACQUELINE MORREAU: Recent works by a sensually expressive painter of grand themes, such as Adam and Eve. Odette Gilbert Gallery, London W1 (01-437 3175). From Wed.

LOUISE BOURGEOIS: Drawings made since 1940 by an American sculptor of large surreal forms. Karsten Schubert Gallery, London W1 (01-631 0031). From Tues.

SIMON EDMONDSON: Expressionistic paintings of naked figures acting out allegories of spiritual torment in hostile lands. Nicola Jacobs Gallery, London W1 (01-437 3868). From Mon.

OUTINGS

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA CONCERT: Free cup of Cherry Picker's punch tea to all members of the audience during the interval. The programme is given by the London Mozart Players. Barbican Concert Hall, Barbican, London EC2 (01-638-8891). Tomorrow.

THE CERAMICS OF JEREMY JAMES: Opening day of an exhibition of finely detailed sculptures of birds and animals. Museum of St Albans, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 56679). Mon-May 26.

RHS FLOWER SHOW: Colourful late spring displays and competitions in dahlias, camellias, ornamental plants and alpinas. Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1 (01-834 4333). Tues. Wed.

ANTIQUE DISCOVERY DAY: Take your antiques for valuation by Sotheby's experts who also accept items for auction. The Winter Garden, Eastbourne (0323 412000). Tues.

NEEDLEWORK AT HINTON ST MARY: A five-day exhibition sponsored by Christie's West Country office in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Exhibits and sales of fine examples of appliqué, patchwork, quilting. The Tithe Barn, The Manor House, Hinton St Mary, Dorset (0258 72519). Wed-Apr 29.

HARROGATE SPRING FLOWER SHOW: Held in the Valley Gardens with most of the show under cover. Huge display of dahlias, large and varied alpine section, flower arrangements, a plant market and many garden accessories. North of England Horticultural Society, Valley Gardens, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (Info: 0423 500 500). Thurs, Fri, Sat.



Stormy waters: Simon Estes as Martin Luther King and Cynthia Haymon as Coretta Scott King

Reaching the West End after as stormy a passage as any in recent theatrical history, King, the musical about the US civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King, opens this week. Directors and others have come and gone amid stories of disavowal of the project by King's widow, Coretta, and the original lyricist, Maya Angelou. Richard Blackford, the composer, has spent seven years working on the piece. He says: "I was a 13-year-old in 1968 when Dr King was assassinated. It was my first awareness of someone who was prepared to

give his life for a cause. The idea grew of a musical about the civil rights movement, which had so much music connected with it: gospel, hymns, freedom songs. His speeches also have a strong musical quality. When I first saw Coretta King in 1983 I suggested a 'folk opera'. Now the show is a fully fledged musical, with elements of music theatre, jazz, blues, even hard rock. And our star is the greatest black opera singer in the world, Simon Estes." Piccadilly Theatre, London W1 (01-867 1118). Opens Mon.

Tony Patrick

BORROWING TIME: British premiere of a piece by Michael Burrell, who also stars with Sheila Reid, directed by Philip Groot. Latchmere, London SW11 (01-228 2620). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE - 2004: Phil Daniels is Alex in the transfer of the film's story to the future. Adaptation/Updating of the Anthony Burgess novella. Royalty, Kingsway, London WC2 (01-831 0660). Opens Mon.

MARIA MAGDALENA: British premiere for an 1844 play by

Friedrich Hebbel. A tragic tale of a woman pressurized into finding a husband, it is regarded as having influenced the development of German and European drama. Gate Theatre Club, above Prince Albert pub, London W11 (01-229 0706). Previews Tues, Wed. Opens Fri.

THERESA: Julia Pascal directs her own dance-theatre piece about an Austrian refugee from Hitler who was taken to the Gestapo in the Channel Islands. Gulbenkian Studio, Newcastle

upon Tues (091 232 9974). Opens Tues.

THE WAY OF ALL FLESH: Award-winning Red Shift company in Robin Brown's adaptation of the Samuel Butler novel, starting a tour in the church where Butler's father was rector, and one of the events in a Butler festival. Jonathan Holloway directs a cast of five. Langar Church, Langar, Nottinghamshire (0602 419741). Tues-Fri. Then touring until mid-May. (Information: 01-223 3256).

JAZZ

HARRY CONNICK JR: With an orchestra in tow, the charismatic young American singer- pianist will be playing selections from his album, *20*, and the soundtrack to the Rob Reiner film *When Harry Met Sally*. Dominion Theatre, London W1 (01-580 9582). Thurs.

THE JAZZ GENERATIONS: A Guildhall School of Music recital by a quintet featuring Lionel Grison, Alec Dankworth as well as the promising trumpeter Paul Edwards. Kensington & Chelsea Music Society, Leighton House, London W1 (info 01-385 9171). Wed.

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A CENTURY OF AMBIGUITY: Jewish life in Russia from 1881 to the present day culled mainly from private collections and presenting an intimate portrait of family life. Royal College of Art, London SW7 (01 584 5020). From tomorrow.

DANCE

TURNING WORLD: A four-week season of international dance opens Mon with Caroline Marcade's company from France, then Liat Dor and Nir Ben-Gal from Israel (Tues, Wed). The Place, London WC1 (01-387 0031).

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Two-week London season opens with revival of MacMillan's *Elle Sympathique* and a new work, *Melodan of Youth*, by Vincent Redmont (Tues-Thurs). Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (01-278 8816).

ROYAL BALLET: Guest stars in *Giselle* are Sylvia Guillem (tonight and Wed, with Jonathan Cope) and the Kirov dancers Aylina Asymuratova and Konstantin Zaklinsky (Thurs). Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068).

ROCK

INSPIRAL CARPETS: Fashionable, Mancunian "scudetic" band with a debut album, *Life*, released this week. McGonagles, Dublin (010 3531 77402) tomorrow. Queens University, Belfast (0232 324803). Mon, Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 226 4679). Tues. Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321) Thurs. Leeds University (0532 439071) Fri.

THE CUREBOYS: Rod Stewart's voice and five versions of Ron Wood's haircut back in the chair with "I Don't Love You Anymore". Royal Centre, Nottingham (0602 483505) Thurs. Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321) Fri.

PHIL COLLINS: Celebrating the phenomenal success of... *But Seriously*. Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-583 8212) tomorrow. Tues, Thurs.

BUTCH HANCOCK & JIMMIE DALE GILMORE: Veteran Texan country duo bring their *No Two Alike* show to London, playing roughly 180 of Hancock's compositions over five nights at different venues. Borderline, London WC2 (01-437 8595) Wed; Hall Moon, Putney, London SW15 (01-788 2387) Thurs; Cuckoo's, London SE11 (01-735 3056) Fri.

SUZANNE VEGA: Earnest Greenwich Village folkie turned mainstream adult-rock star. Cornwell Coliseum, St Austell (072881 4004) tomorrow, Newport Centre (0633 256676) Mon; Crawley Leisure Centre (0293 37431) Tues; Royal Centre, Nottingham (0602 483505) Wed; Wolverhampton Civic Hall (0902 27811) Thurs.

JOOLS HOLLAND: TV presenter, ex-member of Squeeze and boogie woogie pianist nonpareil. Brighton Dome (0273 674357) Mon; Congress, Eastbourne (0323 412000) Tues; Warehouse, Plymouth (0752 224200) Thurs; Beck, Hayes (01-561 8371) Fri.

CONCERTS

HOUGH VISIT: Stephen Hough, an outstanding English pianist, is seldom heard in this country but is here for a few concerts, playing Brahms' grand Piano Concerto No 1 with the LSO under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371236). Today.

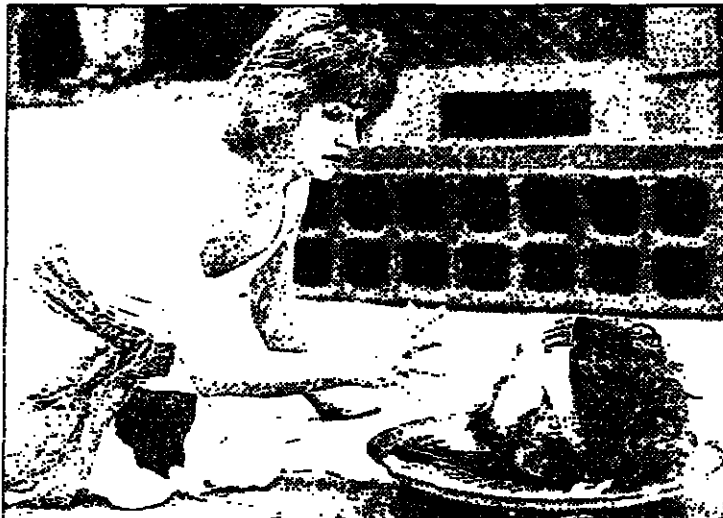
MENTA'S REQUIEM: With celebrated soloists such as Florence Quivar and Paola Burchuladze, Zubin Mehta conducts the London Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra in Verdi's *Requiem*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Tomorrow.

VARIATION SETS: William Boughton and the English Symphony Orchestra give us Elgar's familiar "Enigma" Variations. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Mon.

STOTT IN CHELTENHAM: Continuing her nationwide tour the excellent pianist Kathryn Stott reaches the Puffin Pump Room with Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit*, Chopin's *Balades Nos 1-4*, Mendelssohn's *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*. Puffin Pump Room, Cheltenham (0242 523690). Tues.

FRENCH CONNECTIONS: A splendid programme from Victoria de los Angeles with Debussy's *Chansons de Bédouin* and *Fêtes Galantes*, Ravel's *Mélodies*, *Populaires Grecques* and *Chants Populaires*, plus 5 *mélodies* each from Hahn and Fauré. Wigmore Hall, London W1 (01-835 2141). Thurs.

SHELDONIAN COLLEGIUM: Simon Standage conducts the Collegium Musicum in a concerto grosso from Handel's Op 6, Lorne Anderson sings songs by Anne, Boyce, J. C. Bach, and there is a concerto grosso from Geminiani's Op 3. Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford (0865 864056). Fri.



You're the top: Cynthia Makris as a restrained Salome

OPERA

D'OYLY CARTE: Keith Warner's hilarious production of *The Pirates of Penzance* travels south. Cast includes Marilyn Hill Smith. Pavilion, Bournemouth (0202 297297). Mon, Tues, Wed.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Cinderella goes to the ball again, as Michael Hampe's Salzburg Festival *La Cenerentola* comes to London. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068). Tues.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Enthralling production of Verdi's *Macbeth* by David Pountney. London Coliseum, London WC2 (01-836 3161). Tues and Fri.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Revival of *Anacleon on Naxos* conducted by Lionel Friend. London Coliseum (as above). Wed and Sat Apr 28.

OPERA NORTH: Ravel's *L'Heure Espagnole* and Puccini's *Gianhi Schicchi* in double bill of new productions by Martin Duncan, conducted by David Lloyd-Jones. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 440971). Fri.

While Maria Ewing was recently daring to reveal all in the Dance of the Seven Veils in Strauss' *Salome*, the anti-heroine in André Engel's production for Welsh National Opera removed not a stitch. Yet the dance, like the staging as a whole, was a masterly study in eroticism with its blend of fascination and fear, sensual attraction and disgust. Strauss himself, exasperated by performances in which star dancers played to the gallery with their supposedly exotic snakelike movements, pointed out that as an oriental princess and chaste virgin, *Salome* should be played with the simplest and most restrained gestures. Engel's brilliantly conceived production now transfers to Scottish Opera for five performances in Glasgow, followed by a tour to Aberdeen, Newcastle and Edinburgh. A new cast is headed by the American soprano Cynthia Makris and Scottish Opera music director John Mauceri conducts. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Wed and Sat Apr 28. Barry Millington

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Krays at work: Gary and Martin Kemp with Tom Bell (centre)

The great British public has long been fascinated by grisly murders and criminal trials. Only recently, however, have cinema producers and writers shaken the dust off the police files. The "chit-chin" murders of 1943 prompted *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl*. Now come Ronnie and Reggie Kray, the East London underworld twins whose reign of terror ended in 1969 with 30-year jail sentences. The Krays, written by Philip Ridley, directed by Peter Medak, burrows deep into the brothers' behaviour - tracing their childhood - roots and spotlighting their mother Violet (forcefully played by Billie Whitelaw), whose fierce, unmerciful love fanned the boys' violence. No ordinary casting would suffice for the Krays. Musicians Gary and Martin Kemp, from the band Spandau Ballet, never disappoint for a moment, whether abusing rivals' faces with sabres, or standing silently, icily, in sharp, dark suits, concocting evil by telepathy. Odeon West End (01-930 5252). From Fri.

MONSIEUR HIRE (15): Georges Simenon's novel about a bachelor's dark obsession with his neighbour, powerfully filmed by director Patrice Leconte, and with some intense performances from Michel Blanc and Sandrine Bonnaire. Lumiere, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 0691). From Fri.

NEXT OF KIN (15): A Kentucky clan fights a vengeful battle with the Mafia after a gangland killing. Potboiling vehicle for Patrick Swayze (*Road House*), as the Chicago cop with rural roots, lifted out of the rut by John Irvin's direction. With Liam Neeson, Adam Baldwin and Bill Paxton. Warner West End, Leicester Square, London WC2 (01-439 0791). From Fri.

COLD FEET (15): Unpredictable comedy-drama about three petty criminals in Montana, co-written by novelist Tom McGuane. Starring Tom Waits, Keith Carradine and Sally Kirkland. ICA Cinema, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). From Fri.

BRIDGE

Declarers do not have X-ray eyes and therefore it may not be necessary for a defender who has a sequence of honours to contribute one when playing to the suit. Here, West wants to exit safely, and may have to do so again.

In context, it may be perfectly safe to lead low rather than high. Declarer is very unlikely to call for the 9. Almost certainly, he will ask for the ace and there will be no risk of the 9 becoming established.

In the next diagram you are East and this is a suit you have bid and your partner has supported. Placing South with a singleton, you would like to lead the suit whenever possible, forcing him to ruff, but dummy's holding is an obstacle.

On the lead of the 2, the 8 is played. To win with the queen would disclose your holding, so you might put on the ace and return your low card, expecting South to ruff. The more proficient the declarer, the safer such plays tend to be. Again you are East:

East ruffed the next trick with the 6, but Meyer underruffed exquisitely with the 3 and took the last two tricks.

This time South is the redoubtable Belladonna, who is in 3NT, having shown about 20 points. West leads the 2 of spades, a low heart is led from the table and your king holds the trick.

East, who was Pietro Bernasconi of Geneva, counted South for eight winners and saw that he would soon establish a heart for one more. The best chance was to go for three tricks in diamonds, so Bernasconi boldly returned the 4.

Belladonna was faced with a critical decision. If diamonds were 3-3, it would not matter whether he played high or low, but what if they were 4-2?

In this case, by playing the ace on the first round he could block the suit and still get home if West had a doubleton honour. To hold up the ace would be fatal, for West would win and East would play low on the diamond return, leaving himself with two winning diamonds.

So Belladonna took the first diamond and continued hearts. In theory his play was best, but in practice he was defeated.

West led a diamond and South, Jean-Paul Meyer, after "un coup d'oeil super-rapide", put on the ace and led a spade. As East, would you have covered?

Pierre Schemel did, and wished he hadn't. Had he played the 4, Meyer would have lost two trump tricks, for he intended to play trumps from the top and take the heart finesse for the contract, the obvious thing to do.

As it was, Meyer won the first round of trumps and, noting the 5-0 break, decided that he might still get home if he could find West with K-10 of hearts. He switched to the queen of hearts, covered by the king and ace.

On the next trump lead East had to split his equals. Meyer won, finessed the 9 of hearts, threw a diamond on the jack of hearts and ruffed a diamond. Three rounds of clubs left dummy on lead in this position:

Albert Dormer

CHESS

This week I conclude my coverage of the Candidates Final Match between Jan Timman and Anatoly Karpov for the right to challenge Kasparov for his world crown. After four games Timman's match situation, two games in arrears, was virtually without hope. He fought to hold Karpov in the next three encounters, but the Dutch grandmaster was crushed when his resistance broke in games 8 and 9. This victory must have encouraged Karpov in his quest to regain the title from Kasparov.

White: Timman; Black: Karpov. Candidates Final 5th Game, Kuala Lumpur 1990.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 6th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 7th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 8th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 9th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 10th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 11th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 12th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 13th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 14th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 15th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 16th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 17th Game.

White: Karpov; Black: Timman. 18th Game.

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2158

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, April 26. Entries should be addressed to The Times Crossword Competition, Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, April 28.

ACROSS
1. Elegant (6)
2. Multiplicity (4)
3. Electrical resistance unit (3)
4. Part payment with goods (5-2)
5. Terrible (5)
6. Archbishop of Canterbury's London House (7-6)
7. Ancient British war chief (9)
8. Atomic nuclei emission (13)
9. Fingerprint pattern (5)
10. Riddlemaker (7)
11. Turf (3)
12. Draught on frame (4)
13. Pitfalls (6)

DOWN
1. Bovid mammals (6)
2. Starling (5)
3. Tidal drinks bar (7)
4. Abscon (7)
5. Men's "purse" (6)
6. For publication (2,3,6)
7. Yucatan Indian (4)
8. Race mounting enclosure (7)
9. Shine (7)
10. Robust (6)
11. Nicotiana (6)
12. Cresses (4)
13. Malinger (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 2157
ACROSS: 8 Protege 9 Octure 10 Con 11 Jaywalker 12 Spur 14 Lapland 17 Sporan 19 Wild 22 Refresher 24 Orb 25 World 26 Druggist
DOWN: 1 Cuckoo 2 Jocular 3 Cup 15 Powerful 16 Nil 17 Sprawl 18 On 20 Enough 21 Debate 23 Eddy

Name: _____ Address: _____

SPORT TRAVEL & LEISURE

SECTION 4

SATURDAY APRIL 21 1990

Taking the mike out of the Gaelic

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Galway

IN THE land of the Blarney Stone, Jack Charlton has been displaying his own natural and captivating gift of the gab. During a tour of seven cities in four days this week, the Republic of Ireland's manager has been giving his final World Cup address to his adopted nation.

In discussing the finals here, the Englishman might as well be carrying coals to his native North-East. Interest has reached such unprecedented heights that the crowd for last month's international against Wales, which could under normal circumstances have been accommodated within a local inn, stretched the capacity of 43,000.

But Charlton does not merely talk to the children during the afternoons and the adults during the evenings. He allows his audience to ask potentially the most searching and awkward questions and his answers are as blunt and uncomplicated as his style as a central defender and manager.

He is prepared to ridicule the Gaelic version of football and the language. He does not hesitate in offering a public obituary on the international career of Brady, Ireland's favourite son. He is even eager to explain in deliberate detail his tactical intentions in Italy this summer.

No other national manager would dare to take such dangerous risks, especially less than two months before the opening of the tournament, but Charlton can afford freely to speak his mind. After he has done so, the youngsters regard him as a giant Pied Piper, the elders as an equally august figure.

After the debate on Thursday afternoon, held in a hotel on the banks of the Bay of Galway, a woman discreetly asked one of the organizing officials whether she could have the butt of Charlton's cigar. One mangled memento has since been stored away.

So have the memories of the verbal exchanges. One child, with characteristically disarm-



Anglo-Irish weaver of dreams: Charlton knows how to play to the crowd and, to the delight of the sponsors of his tour, he has charmed them from Cork to Dublin

ing simplicity, wondered: "What do you think of Gaelic, Jack?" Behind a bulbous puff of smoke, the reply echoed around the hall filled with an audience of some 300. "Who?"

After a pause to allow the laughter to subside, Charlton added: "I can't speak it and nor can the players. People ask me: why don't the team sing the national anthem before the kick-off? I tell them that we will — when it has been translated into English."

Amid more giggles, he remembers that he has walked into the heartland of Gaelic football. His subsequent tribute to the sport is wrapped in a teasing critique. "It is insular. Because nobody else plays it, you are the world champions

every year. Besides, you only catch the ball because you can't control it with your feet."

The jokes, taken in the same warm manner in which they are given, are accompanied by serious comment. The prospects of Brady filling an active role in Italy, for instance, are dismissed. "I realized within 15 minutes of the game against West Germany that he couldn't do it any more," Charlton says.

"I should have brought him off then rather than waiting until half-time. I would love to have had him four or five years ago but we've seen the best of him. He was a magnificent player for his country and if he wants to come with us to Italy, he'll still be welcome."

He could not predict so accurately the personal fate of other fringe members of his squad, such as Hughton, Milligan and Slaven. He does not yet know how many of his probable line-up will be available. Whelan, "who has had tendon trouble for some time", is a particular cause for concern.

But Charlton does not disguise the pattern his side will form in the finals. "I changed the style straight away. I knew I had to after watching the World Cup in Mexico. I took a notebook with me to jot down any new information but I wrote not a single word. All the teams were the same."

"Those with the best mid-field players went the furthest in the tournament but I knew

we couldn't play that way. The others have had too much of a start on us and, in British football, we don't know enough about the sweeper's role. We couldn't play from the back, so we play from the front instead."

"We don't play our opponents, we inflict our game on them and they don't like it. We don't make mistakes, which are often the cause of defeat, because we don't keep the ball in our half. We like to send it into theirs. That is why the South Americans, for example, will have more problems with us than we have with them."

Drawn in a group with "two of the best teams in the world", as he describes England and The Netherlands, he makes no claims about Ire-

land's eventual destiny.

"I wouldn't know who to back and everybody seems to assume that we'll all beat Egypt but you can bet that we'll do our best to please all you people."

"If we can't win the World Cup," he went on, "then I would like England to be the champions." There was an appreciable pause before he moved closer to the microphone. His next statement boomed around the room.

As though dangling a dyed prawn in front of a salmon in the nearby weir pool, Charlton knows how to play to the crowd. To the delight of the

sponsors of his tour, the weaver of Irish dreams has charmed the locals from Cork to Dublin this week.

When asked whether he might be tempted to leave his post after the finals, he responds typically with a smile and a jest. "I don't know. I've got 18 months left on my contract and everybody loves me over here at the moment. You might not want me after July."

If so, he reveals that he has an ideal in mind. "I wouldn't want to go back to take charge of an English club," he says. "There are a million and one problems in the job, but I fancy being the manager of Berwick Rangers. It would be worth it for the fish in the Tweed."

Blow to leading Briton in big race

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

CARL Thackeray, the athlete most likely to have ended a five-year wait for Britain to provide a winner of the London Marathon, is almost certain to withdraw today from tomorrow's race because of an ankle tendon injury. Thackeray was considered the greatest threat to the fastest marathon runner in history, Belayneh Densimo, of Ethiopia, who will be appearing in London for the first time.

Thackeray, whose recent form suggested to him that he was capable of "2hr 07min 2-08 or 2-09", good enough to have won most London Marathons, had a cortisone injection yesterday after failing to complete a 10-minute easy run on Thursday evening.

"I would say my chances are very slim — in fact I would say there is no chance at all," he said yesterday. "If I run on the injury and rupture it, it means I will be off for a long time."

Places in the British team for the European championships this summer are at stake in London. But, if times are moderate and the selectors decide to delay the naming of all three men in their team, Thackeray may yet have a chance. By resting now, there would be some prospect of him being fit in time to run in either the Paris Marathon or the Stockholm Marathon in the next few weeks.

Last month Thackeray set a Commonwealth 20 kilometres track record of 57min 28.7sec, finishing only 10 seconds down on the Portuguese, Dionisio Castro, who set a world record. It is the second time in three months that Thackeray has suffered an untimely injury. In January he was an early casualty of the Commonwealth Games marathon, dropping out with leg trouble.

Without Thackeray, the weight of expectation for Britain will fall on three stalwarts of the London Marathon: Hugh Jones, winner in 1982; Mike Gratton, winner in 1983; and Kevin Forster, second on two occasions. "I don't want to finish second again — I am going to try and do better," Forster, who looks the most likely of the three, said yesterday.

Chris Brasher, the race director, offered a helping hand to Britain's developing marathon runners when he announced yesterday a £4,000 sponsorship for those who finish outside the prize-money tomorrow but who show the greatest potential. The grants for training and medical assistance would, Brasher said, be shared between four to six Britons. He hopes to persuade four of Britain's great names of the past, Basil Heatley, Jim Alder, Bill Adcock and Brian Kilby, to be on the panel which decides who should be allocated the grants.

Last year's world record number of finishers for a marathon, 22,652, is expected to be beaten by some 3,000 and participants in the tenth running of the annual race can look forward to weather comparable to 1985, when London's fastest times were produced.

Rangers can wrap up title

By Roddy Forsyth

ON the day that Rangers stand a single point from annexing their third championship in four seasons under Graeme Souness, it is remarkable to recollect that, in January, it was possible to believe that Rangers might have put the League title beyond dispute by the middle of March.

Instead, with three matches still to be played, it is arithmetically possible for the defending champions to be overtaken on goal difference by either Heart of Midlothian or Aberdeen.

Of course, Rangers have it in their own hands to resolve the issue by leaving Tannadice unbeaten this afternoon, and although the Tayside ground

has been an infertile venue for visitors in recent years, it looks rather less impregnable after the results of the last week.

Dundee United's inept collapse against Aberdeen in last Saturday's Scottish Cup semi-final at Tynecastle was followed by the dropping, by their manager, Jim McLean, of half of the cup team for the midweek League match between the same sides at Pittodrie.

Aberdeen again emerged with a victory, but by the only goal of the game, a circumstance which suggested that United's resolve had been reinforced. By contrast, the previous three matches in Rangers' calendar have shown

the Ibrox side awakened from the lethargy and complacency which characterized their indifferent form through most of February and March.

Their attempt to achieve the single point which gives them the crown is aided by the fact that Terry Butcher and Richard Gough are both almost certain to play, despite each suffering from slight malaises this week.

Rangers' prodigal son, Derek Ferguson, who returned from his loan period with Dundee and who played against Motherwell last week, is again included in the squad.

Those whose taste runs to prolonging interest in the championship have noted that United have only lost once at

home this season, but it is also possible for Rangers to be beaten today and still celebrate victory in the League because, as fate and the fixture computer would have it, Hearts and Aberdeen meet simultaneously at Tynecastle, where a draw would mean that neither could catch the leaders.

Hearts will probably restore the pugnacious McCreery to their forces, and John Robertson also returns, hopeful of extending his personal scoring record and, by so doing, keep his side narrowly ahead of Aberdeen on goal difference in the chase for second spot. Aberdeen, needless to say, harbour identical pretensions.

Elsewhere, if Dunfermline can take a single point from St Mirren at Love Street, they will entertain Premier division football next season, but if the Fife side and Dundee beat Celtic at Parkhead, the relegation issue will not be settled.

However, the chances of the bottom club inflicting an unprecedented fourth consecutive league defeat upon the Cup-holders and finalists, appears to be beyond their scope. The fixture card is made up by the meeting of Hibernian and Motherwell, with the Edinburgh team still nourishing hopes of a UEFA Cup place next season.

Mansell is confident after injury

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

NIGEL Mansell is confident of being fit to race in next month's San Marino Grand Prix, despite injuring his wrist in a crash in Italy on Thursday.

Mansell's press agent, Sue Mambery, revealed yesterday that he had told his results of preliminary X-ray examinations in the Isle of Man, where he lives, showed he had not fractured his wrist when he crashed his new Ferrari Formula One car during testing.

"It is very badly bruised and swollen," she said, "but he is confident of being fit for Imola."

Earlier, doctors had feared Mansell had fractured his wrist when spinning his new car off a rain-swept track, which is the venue for the San Marino race on May 13.

Mansell left the course to return home without letting the Italians take prolonged look at the injury. The nose of Mansell's car was slightly damaged in the crash.

Until yesterday's announcement by Mansell, Ferrari were thought to be ready to name Gianni Morbidelli, of Italy, as his replacement alongside his team colleague, Alain Prost.

Wales make bold plans for future

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

AFTER a decade of disapproval — with the exception of 1988 — concluded by a season of dissent, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has turned its face boldly towards the future with the publication of a policy document designed to carry the game into a new millennium.

The Quest for Excellence, a 106-page strategic plan co-ordinated by Giamor Griffiths, the WRU treasurer, was accepted by the union's general committee on Thursday and unveiled yesterday. It contains 78 major initiatives, including three key appointments — technical director, marketing manager, and development officer for referees.

"When we talk about excellence, we don't talk only about the national side," Griffiths said yesterday. "We look at the game as a whole: refereeing, coaching, marketing, the international scene,

tours, the physical and financial means at our disposal. The plan is based on our present situation, identifies the problems facing us and the opportunities open to us."

The appointment of Ron Waldron as Wales's first team manager has been accepted, and he will take up the new post after the tour to Namibia. It will incorporate the role of coach and chairman of selectors, and Waldron will be able to recommend the back-up he requires. A network of specialists will be at his disposal.

The new technical director, for whom Wales will cast their net overseas as well at home, will control coaching, which has been the province for the last decade of John Dawes, the former national captain.

"There is no question of John Dawes, or his assistant, Malcolm Lewis, being sacked," Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said.

Council consider Cup tickets action

TRADING Standards officers in Liverpool are threatening to take the Football Association to the Office of Fair Trading in an attempt to ensure a fairer system of distributing tickets for the 1991 FA Cup final (Louise Taylor writes).

Led by Peter Mawdsley, Liverpool City Council's chief trading standards officer, they believe that the FA's allocation of tickets for next month's final between Manchester United and Cry-

stal Palace will encourage the activities of ticket touts and increase black market prices.

A total of 42,960 tickets are divided between the participating clubs. A further 21,360 go to 54 county associations, 9,680 to the other 90 League clubs, 1,200 to non-League clubs, 960 to the FA Council, 480 stay at Wembley, the FA keeps 1,680, and overseas FA's get 320. Inevitably, many of these tickets are re-sold on the black

market, ending up in the hands of genuine supporters for vastly inflated prices, and Mawdsley would like to see the two clubs allocated the majority of seats in future.

This year Crystal Palace are upset because they have been allocated 14,000 tickets as opposed to the 26,000 for Manchester United (who have a much larger average gate). Yesterday the FA approved West Ham United giving their 108 tickets to Palace.

Wizards scheme the final outcome

Greetings. This column has migrated from the middle of the paper to these pages, so it is time for a radical shift in policy. No more of those silly stories about ski-jumping, non-League football and cows eating cricket balls: now we are on the sports pages this will become the sporting diary with *gratias*.

In accordance with these new standards, then, I bring you news from the wizards, clairvoyants and astrologers that make up the Italian Wizards Association. Italy, they predict, will play Argentina in the final of the football World Cup on July 8 in Rome.

Some go further and prophesy an Italian victory. Brazil and the Soviet Union will be the losing semi-finalists. Predictions were made following overnight rituals at a propitious time — "the very magic moment of the August plenitune", in fact. The best dark horses will be Cameroon and United Arab Emirates.

They add that Diego Maradona, of Argentina and Marco van Basten, of Netherlands, will be the top men in the tournament. By one of those astonishing, indeed, well-nigh Nostrodaman coincidences, an Italy-Argentina final also happens to be well-favoured by the book-makers.

SPORTS DIARY
Simon Barnes

Mass appreciation

Religion and football are inextricable in Italy. Greetings to Father Alvaro Durante, the 55 year old parish priest of San Bartolomeo, from the north Italian town of Bergamo. He has recently increased his congregation at evening mass on Sunday by supplying a commentary and round-up on the day's football results, giving special attention to the local side, Atalanta — a side that once played against Merthyr Tydfil, then of the Beazer Homes League, in the European Cup-Winners' Cup. Fr Alvaro was a volleyball referee, and was once spiritual adviser to Ancona football club.

A league of their own

Football is about loyalty worthy of a better cause: non-League football is about the loyalty that passeth all understanding. Greetings,

then, to three great non-League persons. George Mountford, aged 90, has just celebrated 85 years of watching Stafford Rangers, now of the GM Vauxhall Conference, from the terraces. Bryan Moore, director and company secretary of Yeovil Town, another Conference side, has just broken a 21-year run in which he watched 1,308 consecutive Yeovil matches, both home and away. Terry King, manager of Potton United, of the Nene Group United Counties League, has announced he will retire at the end of the season after 43 years with the club, 25 as a manager. He joined as a 16-year-old player.

Tips for the future

Now here is a really nasty little status symbol: the Racepacer. It is a small black box full of technology, and throughout the day it tells you all you could wish to know about racing. Results, selections, going reports, starting prices, stewards' enquiries, photo finishes are all flashed on to a little screen within seconds. A snip for £290 a year.

The genuine article

I have received a letter from the Standard Athletic Club, a British sports club in Paris, or as they prefer to express it, the British sports club in Paris. They have some right to the definite article: they are 100 years old this year; they were founded by English engineers working in the Eiffel Tower; they were the first winners of

the French football cup; they supplied most of the (losing) French team for the Olympic cricket final in 1990; also of the (victorious) French cricket team that played MCC last year. They also play hockey, and tell me that they have attracted the England hockey side for a centenary bash over the weekend of April 28-29.

Violent argument

Ice hockey is going through one of its periodic bursts of chest-beating about punch-ups. The National Hockey League from north America recently set a new record of 86 penalties in a game, the most in 72 years of NHL history. Many feel this statistic represents nothing more than over-zealousness. Arguments for fighting include the matey: "Sometimes fighting can bring a team closer together. Everyone stuck up for everyone and that's what it's all about." (Cap Raeder, Los Angeles Kings); the mercenary: "Some people may want to keep violence because they think it sells." (Lou Lamoriello, New Jersey Devils); and the expedient: "I do know this about fighting in the NHL right now. As a tactic, it works." (Also Lamoriello). There is also the metaphysical argument, as expressed by Marty McSorley, a renowned "goon" from the LA Kings. "When you win a real emotional game, with a lot of fights, you go home and you feel a little closer to your teammates. I thought the fights made it a real spiritual game."

AMERICAN BOWL '90

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LOS ANGELES RAIDERS - v - NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

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WEMBLEY
VENUE OF LEGENDS

FOOTBALL

Base instincts: Kevin Elster, of the New York Mets baseball team, fails to tag Barry Lyons, of the Chicago Cubs, as he steals second, but the Mets won, 4-1

The universities made a clean sweep in the volleyball, defeating the polytechnics to gain the men's title and completing an unbeaten series for the women's. Universities also took the netball.

RESULTS: Football: BPSA 3, BCSCA 2
Hockey: Men: BUSF 5, BCSCA 1, Women: BPSA 2, BUSF 1, Netball: BCSCA 30, BPSA 3
Baseball: BCSCA 16, BPSA 16
Volleyball: Men: BPSA 3, BCSCA 2, Women: BCSCA 2, BPSA 1
Netball: BPSA 2, BCSCA 2
Baseball: BCSCA 16, BPSA 16
Volleyball: Men: BPSA 3, BCSCA 2, Women: BCSCA 2, BPSA 1
Netball: BPSA 2, BCSCA 2

● The three-times winners, Doncaster Belles, face the 1980 winners, St Helens, in one of the two women's FA Cup semi-finals at Millwall, tomorrow. The other semi-final brings together Friends of Fulham, the 1985 winners, and Preston

Froxham Marshes; Oxford Marshland v Northampton Old Boys; Partley v Old Alleghans; Redringsians v Old Millwallians; Ruslip v High Wycombe; Saltrion Walden v Barnet Shrapley v Gillingham Anthonians; Weymouth v Gillingham; Yarmouth v The Tollys v Weymouth; Turbridge Wells v Backhouse; Twickenham v Hampstead; Westcombe Pk v Guildford and Goslington; Windsor v Beaconsfield.

WEST: Chob matches; Ashley Down v Kidgewood; Avonmouth v Chippping Sodbury; Backwell v Barton Hall; Burnstaple v Rudruth; Bath OE v Chew Valley; Bishopston v Bristol Harlequins; Blagdon v Imperial; Bristol Saracens v Glosford; Bristol Telephones v St George's; Bristol Bears v Bristol; Burnham-on-Sey v Suda v Vaux; Camrose v Devon and Cornwall Police; Castle Cary v Cheddar; Catick v Cleve; Crewkerne v Dorchester; Clifton Woburn v

and 4.40 from Ayr: Screensport 6-6.30pm: French season.
RALLYCROSS: Screensport 9-10am and midnight: Highlights of the British Championships from North Yorkshire.
RESULTS SERVICE: ITV 4 4.5-5pm.
SAINT AND GREASIVIE: ITV 1, 10-1.40pm.
SKOGG: Screensport 8.30-9pm: Highlights of the final slalom event from Keystone, Colorado.

ICE HOCKEY
HEINEKEN CHAMPIONSHIP: Flink (2.0).
OTHER SPORT
ATHLETICS: ADT London Marathon.

NETBALL: Everleigh County Championship (Anerley, London).
SMOKE: Embassy World Championships (Sheffield).
SQUASH RACKETS: Hi-Tec British Open (Wembley).

TRANS WORLD SPORT: Eurosport 4-5pm: Sport from around the world.
UPDATE: Screensport 6pm.

ATHLETICS: BBC1 9.10am-12.10pm and Eurosport 9.30am onwards: Live coverage of the ADT London Marathon: BBC1 12.40-1.20pm and 7.15-8.05pm: Further coverage of the ADT London Marathon: Eurosport 6-7pm: Highlights of the Roter-

BASEBALL: Screensport 12.30-2pm:
American league.

BASKETBALL: Screensport 8-9.30pm:
American league.

BOYING: Screensport 1-2.45pm and

11.30-1am: Professional event from the United States, and British/Commonwealth light welter-weight championships.

EQUESTRIANISM: Eurosport 5-6pm: 'Horse Box'.

FLM: Eurosport 9-10.30pm: 'The 1962 World Cup'.
FOOTBALL: Screensport 12-12.30pm and 5-6pm: Spanish and Argentina.

5

1WO.

AM	10	11	12
RANGER	10	11	12
STRATFORD	10	11	12
WEST	10	11	12
SOCCERFIELD	10	11	12

AM	10	11	12
RANGER	10	11	12
STRATFORD	10	11	12
WEST	10	11	12
SOCCERFIELD	10	11	12

Rami to strengthen Guineas claim with Greenham victory

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

MACHIAVELLIAN remains unopposed at the head of the 2,000 Guineas market, but each-way backers have no shortage of alternatives. Trol and Anshan became the latest to press their claims with victories at Newmarket this week, and the Singer and Friedlander Greenham Stakes at Newbury today should provide further food for thought.



Rami, trained by Peter Walwyn, has already attracted plenty of ante-post interest, dropping from 33-1 to 14-1, and it is to justify that support nothing less than victory here will be sufficient.

His price, it has to be admitted, is based largely on reputation and reports of excellent home-bred colts. With only two runs behind him, he is the least experienced in the field. However, both kinted as immense potential.

He began with a promising third to Alidra, the winner of a good-class race at Kempton last Saturday, and Soy Roberto, previously second to Mukdam, on his debut at Newmarket. Returning there some two weeks later, he confirmed the promise with a comfortable win from Gomarior.

Although that form is nothing out of the ordinary, Rami was not helped by having to race on his own on the stands' side for a large part of the race. There is every possibility that he would have produced extra with some company.

If Rami represents potential, Rock City and Welney stand for proven high-class

with Henry Cecil suggests we have yet to see the best of him. Reports indicate he has been going well at home with Cindamer, second at Newmarket this week, and he can begin his four-year-old career on the right note.

Charmar and Shellac, both successful already this season, look the greatest dangers.

However, for the nap I rely on another Cecil charge, Belmore. He already holds the rare distinction of being a 50-1 winner for his trainer, that being his price when he beat stable-companion Satin Wood, third to Eshamul at Kempton last Saturday, at Newmarket last autumn. He can only improve and should take the Burghclere Stakes.

In the William Hill Scottish National at Ayr, Bonanza Boy can defy top-weight now that he has the soft ground in his favour. He ran away with the Welsh National in similar conditions but found the fast going against him when unplaced in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National.

Boraciva, who comes here from a busy recent schedule, is a thorough stayer who should give a good account of himself, but at longer odds Biting Jack is a lively each-way possibility.

Young Smuggler deserves to win a decent race after gallant defeats at Cheltenham and Liverpool, and his opportunity may have come in the Edinburgh Woolen Mill's Future Champion Novices' Chase. He jumps well and his trail-blazing style is always likely to elude opponents. Celtic Shot will be suited by the ground but has to concede 3lb to my selection.

Selections

By Mandarin

2.15 Vintage Only, 2.45 Stamp N' Early, 3.15 Tawny, 3.45 Native Flair, 4.15 Noble Fellow, 4.45 Great Chaddington, 5.15 Sarafra.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 Timeless Times, 2.45 Nucleon, 3.15 Tawny, 3.45 Native Flair, 4.15 Noble Fellow, 5.15 Sarafra.

Going: firm

Draw: 5F-8, high numbers best

2.15 CLIFTON STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,898; 5f) (6 runners)

1-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-24

A marathon is on its mettle for its tin anniversary

Man with something extra

And people will continue to recall Brasher's words from his 1979 article: "It is mad for an overweight middle-aged matron attempt the toughest event in the athletic calendar. And yet they were matrons and maidens, men and young boys doing it that."

one stroke clear of Florence Descampe from Belgium.

The British professionals, Dale Reid (68), Katrina Douglas (71) and Maureen Garner (69), were in close attendance one stroke further behind. Sinn turned professional last August but failed by an astonishing one

D Reid, 75, 68; K Douglas, 72, 71, 144-T; A Hulton (67), 73, 148; G Stewart, 75, 1, 142-T; A Sheard (SA), 75, 72; D Hutton (A), 75, 72, 148; K Garner, 75, 72, 148; K Wurch (SA), 74, 74; M Andrews (SW), 75, 73; R Leuten (Swi), 75, 72; S Shepp, 75, 72; D Downing, 75, 73; T Johnson, 72, 77; A Dibos (Par), 73, 75, 151; S Crook (67), 75, 80; M Spencer-Devlin (US), 73, 76; J Connors, 75, 73; C Reid, 75, 74; T Yarrowood, 77, 74, 152; C Barth (A), 75, 74.

ROME — The American challenger, Pearl Sinn, was safely in the clubhouse and heading the leader board when rain brought play to a halt in the second round of the Valeixia Classic at the Olgiata course yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

Sinn, the 1968 US amateur champion, displayed a brilliant touch on the greens as he fashioned a round of 68 for a one under par aggregate of 141, one stroke clear of Florence Descamps from Belgium.

The British professionals, Dale Reid (63), Kirrina Douglas (71) and Maureen Gander (69), were in close attendance once the rain cleared and Sinn earned professional status last August but failed her on a sensitive one-

stroke to earn her players' card at the LPGA qualifying school.

Yesterday the Korean-born golfer, who lives in Los Angeles holed two putts of 25 feet and two more of half that distance for her four birdies. Her only lapse was when she needed three putts for the second day running on the 12th green.

LEADING SCOTCHMEN (ES-
tablished 1968-1970) — Jim
73, 66, 142; F Descamps (Belg) 73,
D Reid, 73, 68; K Douglas, 72, 71; 144; T
Abraham (Can) 71, 70; G Stewart, 75,
74; 145; J Reed (Aus) 74, 73;
(Aus) 78, 74; L Davies, 74, 73; 148; N
Wentch 80, 74, 144; H Abrahamson
(Swe) 74, 73; 147; J Gander (W), 74,
73; 147; P Sheppard, 73, 76;
74, 72; D Dowling, 75, 76;
71; Johnson, 72, 77; A Oates (Irel), 73, 76;
74, 73; 147; J Gander (W), 74, 73;
(US) 75, 76; J Connors, 76, 78; G
Scobie (Ire) 74, 72; T Vynward, 77, 74;

Celebrating a white man's field

African runners tend not only to shoot themselves in the foot but to pass the gun on to a team-mate

Now that we have resolved the argument about how to spell his name, only one question remains: will he win? Belayneh Densimo, the fastest marathon runner ever, is nearly three minutes quicker than the next man entered. The complicating factor is that Densimo is African.

Densimo, from Ethiopia, arrived to a press inquisition on Thursday that surely was unique to an athletics world record holder. Spellings of his name had varied from Belayneh Densimo to Belayneh Dinsamo.

African marathon runners tend not only to shoot themselves in the foot but to pass the gun on to a team-mate. What happened in Boston on Monday in the world's oldest annual marathon was the most grotesque example yet of mass self-slaughter.

Of the two Ethiopians, two Kenyans and two Tanzanians — ran the first mile at 1hr 56min marathon pace and reached halfway still more than a minute inside Densimo's world best time. By the 21st mile, Gelindo Bordin, from Italy, who had been running detached, had passed them all and went on to win.

Bordin's phlegmatic approach was much as it had been in the Seoul Olympics when, in the last mile and a bit, he passed two more Africans with eyes only for each other, Douglas Wakiburi and Ahmed Salah, to win.

"The Africans are crazy," Bordin said. "They worry only about each other." In which case Densimo will not have much worrying to do tomorrow. London this year is a white man's field, with only Dereji Nedi, another Ethiopian, as African company for Densimo among the likely front-runners.

Densimo has abandoned a potential fourth successive win in Rotterdam on the same day as London in his attempt to prove himself here. Rotterdam was the course on which, two years ago, he set his world best of 2hr 06min 50sec or, if you like, 26 miles at 4min 50sec mile pace.

His last two marathons, in New York, where he was ninth, and Tokyo, where he was third, have looked less impressive, but if he gets back on the winning trail he will maintain London's record of no man having won the race twice.

The first Briton is guaranteed selection and reasonably quick times — 2hr 11min to 2:12 — will probably be good enough for the next two. The main contenders are Carl Thackeray, provided he recovers from injury, Mike Gratton, Kevin Forster, Kenny Stuart and Hugh Jones. If Densimo runs away from the pack and stays there, the women's race may offer consolation. The field is closely packed with talent and, in any case, will provide a new winner as none of the previous champions is competing.

Lisa Weidenbach, of the United States, stands as slight favourite over Zhao Youfeng, of China. But Wanda Panfil, of Poland, Aurora Cunha, of Portugal, Lyubov Klockho, of the Soviet Union, and France Larrieu-Smith, of the United States, are contenders, too.



BELAYNEH DENSIMO
Ethiopia
Aged 32
Best time: 2hr 06min 50sec (Rotterdam, 1988)



HENRIK JORGENSEN
Denmark
Aged 28
Best time: 2hr 09min 43sec (London, 1985)



CARL THACKERAY
Britain
Aged 27
Best time: 2hr 14min 19sec (Mersey, 1989)



LISA WEIDENBACH
United States
Aged 28
Best time: 2hr 28min 15sec (Chicago, 1989)

Holder of world's fastest time of 2:06:50, set in Rotterdam two years ago; has won four of his 10 marathons and comes to London instead of seeking a fourth successive win in Rotterdam, which is held on the same day; has slowed down in his last two marathons — 2:13:42 in New York in November and 2:11:32 in Tokyo in February, London debut.

An unexpected winner in 1988, his only marathon triumph in 12 attempts; his under-18 karate champion; a best hope if untroubled by ankle tendonitis; won English trial for Commonwealth Games at Mersey but dropped out after nine miles in Auckland; an exciting prospect after his last half-marathon and Commonwealth record for 20 kilometres on the track.

Doubtful starter because of late injury but Britain's former national under-18 karate champion; a best hope if untroubled by ankle tendonitis; won English trial for Commonwealth Games at Mersey but dropped out after nine miles in Auckland; an exciting prospect after his last half-marathon and Commonwealth record for 20 kilometres on the track.

Four wins in nine marathons, including three big ones: Boston in 1985 (2:24:06), Chicago in 1988 (2:28:17) and Chicago again last year (2:28:15); favourite to take advantage, as Veronique Mariot did last year, of absence of big names; quit swimming, disillusioned after United States boycott of 1980 Moscow Olympics; took up jogging; London debut.



HUGH JONES
Britain
Aged 34
Best time: 2hr 09min 24sec (London, 1982)



KEVIN FORSTER
Britain
Aged 31
Best time: 2hr 10min 52sec (London, 1988)



KENNY STUART
Britain
Aged 33
Best time: 2hr 11min 36sec (Houston, 1989)



ZHAO YOUFENG
China
Aged 24
Best time: 2hr 27min 06sec (Seoul, 1988)

In his thirteenth year of marathon running, has shown outstanding consistency; this will be his 25th marathon but his first for two years following a heel injury; has finished first, second, third and fourth in his four London runs; won Stockholm in 1983, was fifth in 1988 European championship and fifth in 1987 world championship.

Three victories in nine marathons but yet to win a big one; twice close in London — second to Charlie Spedding in 1984 and to Henrik Jorgensen in 1985; won Ennschede in 1983, Toronto in 1984 and Stockholm in 1987; in last three marathons, 33rd in Seoul Olympics (2:20:45), 34th in London (2:13:31), fifth in Venice 1989 (2:16:47).

Winner of the Glasgow marathon in 1988 (2:14:04) and the Houston marathon in 1989 (2:11:36); former champion amateur and professional fell runner; fifteenth in London last year (2:12:53) and fourth in Birmingham (2:15:15); says that he has had a good winter.

Chinese women's distance running is undergoing a revolution; after Zhao's fifth in Seoul Olympics, China won world 15 kilometres road race title last year and had first and second individuals in junior world cross-country championship last month; has run three marathons, following Seoul with successive wins in Nagoya; London debut.



VLADIMIR KOTOV
Soviet Union
Aged 32
Best time: 2hr 10min 58sec (Moscow, 1980)



SALVATORE BETTIOL
Italy
Aged 28
Best time: 2hr 10min 08sec (New York, 1989)



FRANCE LARRIEU-SMITH
United States
Aged 37
Best time: 2hr 32min 31sec (Columbus, 1988)



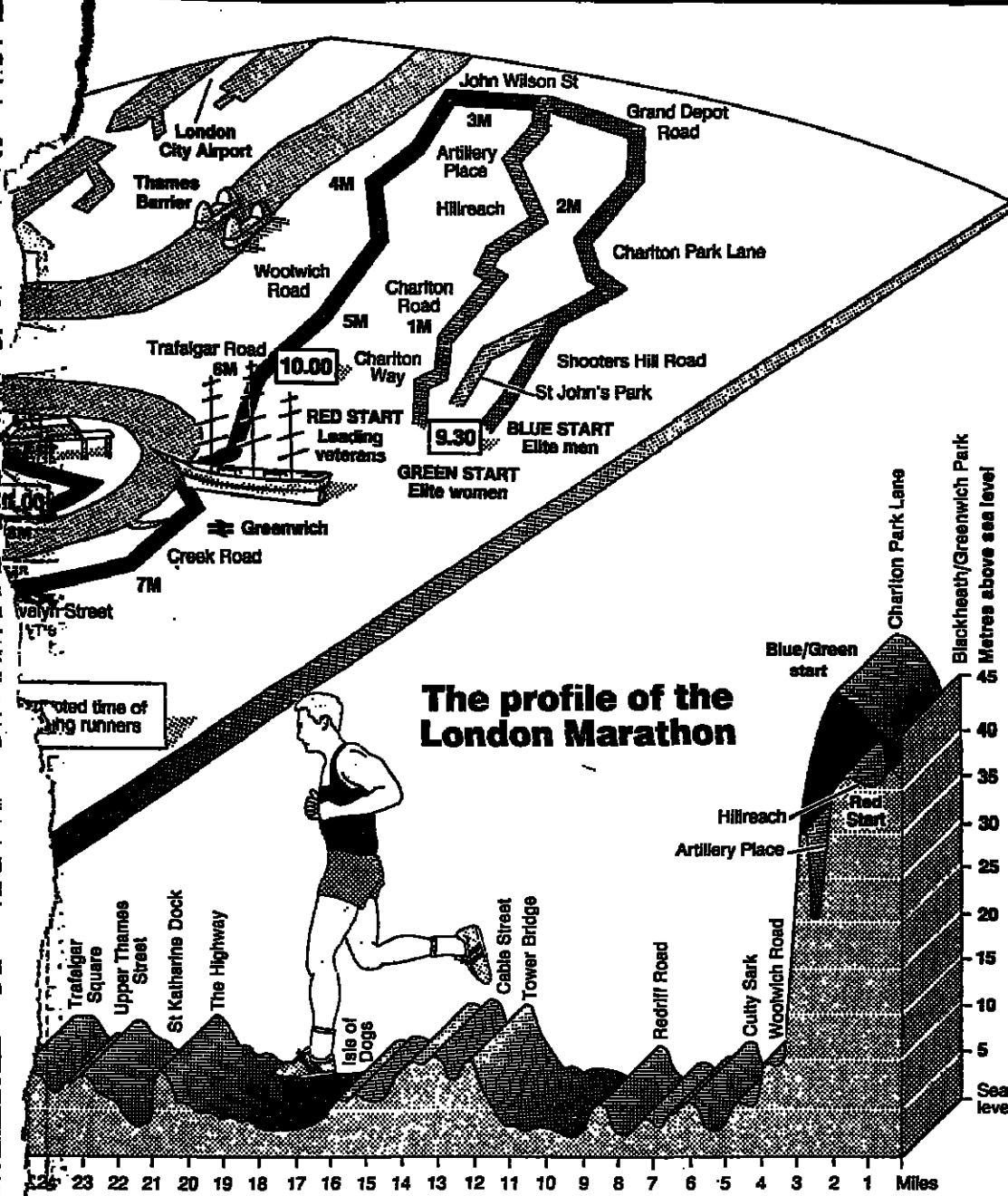
WANDA PANFIL
Poland
Aged 31
Best time: 2hr 27min 05sec (London, 1989)

London debut after successive wins in smaller marathons; fourth in 1980 Moscow Olympics; eighth in Fukuoka, the following year; won 1980 Moscow Marathon in 2:10:58; considerable injury problems in mid-1980s; his 2:12:48 in winning Birmingham on a hilly course last summer was probably worth 2:10; then won Bermuda (2:16:59).

London debut; prominent in New York, one of the big five marathons; for the last two years; second in 1988 (2:11:41), when he was challenging Steve Jones before cramp forced him to stop; and fourth in 1989 (2:10:03); well placed in two World Cups; third in 1987 (2:11:28) and seventh in 1989 (2:12:41); won the Venice Marathon on a short course in 1987.

Second in both her marathons; Houston in 1988 (2:33:36) and Columbus in 1988 (2:32:30); better prepared for London than for either of her last two; fifth in the Seoul Olympic 10,000 metres in 2:15:52; suggested she should be capable of nearer 2:25 than 2:30; "the last four months of my life have been dedicated to training for this event," she says.

Although Chicago six months ago was the slowest of her five marathons (2:35:40), she has been performing well over shorter distances; set Polish record when finishing second in Veronique Mariot's tournament over the past decade; was simply unable to last the distance against Nicole.



MARATHON FACTS AND FIGURES

PRIZE-MONEY

International marathon prize-money is set in United States dollars. The winners of the men's and women's races will receive \$52,195 each; awards stretch down to the twentieth runner, who receives \$750 and the fifteenth woman, who receives the same. The total prize-money is \$364,890, of which \$205,695 goes to the men and \$159,195 to the women.

A \$100,000 bonus will be paid to any man running under 2hr 06min or any woman beating 2:20. A \$50,000 bonus will be paid for anyone beating Belayneh Densimo's world best of 2:06:50 or any woman beating Ingrid Kristiansen's world best of 2:21:05.

Bonuses of \$10,000 are on offer for course records, which means sub-2:08:16 for the men, or sub-2:21:06 for the women.

The winning teams for men and women will receive \$15,000. Aggregates will be decided on total times for the first three from each country rather than positions.

BEST PERFORMANCES
In the first decade of the London Marathon the most successful athlete was Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway. Kristiansen set a world best of 2hr 21min 06sec, which stands, in 1985 and has won the race four times. Two other women have won it twice — Joyce Smith, of Britain, and Grete Waitz, of Norway (2hr 03min 16sec), and Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway (2:21:06) hold the course records.

BEST OF BRITISH
British men went in and out of the first five London Marathons but none of the last four. Veronique Mariot ended a six-year wait for a home victory in the women's race when she set a British best of 2hr 25min 55sec last year.

FASTEST VETERANS
The best times recorded by vet-

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Marathon Appeal

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- THE SPIRIT OF NAGASAKI
- ON THE ROAD IN PORTUGAL

TRAVEL

Where Germany's past meets its future

In the third of our Great Cities series, Anne McElvoy celebrates the sights and smells of the new Berlin as its people adjust to life without the Wall

In a million photo albums there lurks the picture of a Berlin visit—the Checkpoint Charlie crossing point with its lugubrious quadrilateral warning. "You are now leaving the American sector", and the stern background figures of East German border guards.

A couple of days after the border opened in November, a new piece of graffiti appeared, the background for a new generation of standard photos, taken this time by visiting East Germans still giddy at the novelty of popping across the Wall to the West. It said simply: "Nov 10, 1989—Charlie's retired."

Charlie's retirement shook the world, but left Europe's most resilient, not to say cocky, city curiously unchanged.

West Berlin remains its old frenetic self, a haven for bored offspring of the Bundesrepublik, who flee here from small-time prosperity and turn into a fabulous, wild-living diaspora for a few years until they can't stand it any more and head back to the quieter charms of the Rhine.

It is, consequently, the place for late nights and even later breakfasts: a weekend spent here lingers for at least a week as one's body clock registers its confusion at the nocturnal excess.

West Berlin dwells boastfully at the edges of excess. The cafes of Schöneberg and Kreuzberg have names like The Fish Laboratory, Shamblerland and Seizure, where the black-clad clientele yawns and mournfully sips frothy coffee in a permanent morning-after coma.

In the almost unbearably respectable Kneiser's, on the Kurfürstendamm, the same ritual is performed in a very different kind of café as the hatted matrons of Dahlem and Wannsee settle down at four o'clock sharp to discuss their ailments, consoled by *Kaffee und Kuchen*.

Saturday afternoon on the Kurfürstendamm now sees the serious shoppers, browsers and beggars, complemented by families from the East on their weekend jaunt to the West. Young couples push antiquated prams, children in the East German uniform of red bobble hat and wellingtons clutch shiny balloons, their first Western treat, and trip over their feet in their distraction at the weekend jamboree of sound and colour.

But escape from the lure of the centre and you will find another Berlin, where the ghosts of Fontaine's officers, courtesans and seamstresses stalk dark forests and lakes to remind the visitor that this most metropolitan of metropolises is, in fact, situated agreeably in the middle of nowhere.

In the village of Lübars, to the north of Berlin, the *Alten Dorf* serves giant glasses of *Berliner Weisses*—beer with a shot of raspberry juice which froths prettily but tastes like a bad mistake. From Wannsee you can wander into the Grunewald, taking due notice of the signs warning you to beware of the wild boar and avoiding the parties of Von Bülow and visiting Polish aristocracy who still pursue the poor creatures on Sunday afternoons.

Less risky is a boat trip to the scenic Peacock Island, populated by creatures arguably more vain than the average habitants of the city's cabs.

Back in town, ancient tram tracks between East and West carrying families back home, the most evocative tram stops in Germany, through crumbling stations announcing themselves in grubby Gothic script, past the Reichstag.

staining for a glimpse of the Brandenburg Gate and across the no man's land of the curving Spree, where the watchtowers now stand empty.

At Friedrichstrasse station, the end of the West and beginning of the East, there is a new species of our times to observe and enjoy: the smiling border guard, stripped of the burden of looking as if he means it, carries out the ritual of issuing a day-wise stamping passport and staring dumbly at the passport on the other side of the counter as if the whole procedure were a huge joke: "You again? Can't resist the lure of socialism, this one."

Some things do not change. Joining the hordes streaming out of the station laden with coffee and oranges—the spoils of the foray—the Prussian scent of the East assails. It is an old-fashioned smell, a distilled scent of Germany past—diesel oil, fog and somewhere the subdued notes of cinnamon and beer.

I know a dissident, forcibly exiled from the country for a decade, who carried off his return with remarkable equanimity only



Symbol of unity: a West German family returns from the Brandenburg Gate with their piece of the Wall. Their son sports a border guard's hat bought from a pedlar

to break down in tears the first time he sniffed the air outside Friedrichstrasse and finally knew that he had come home.

The huff, puff and copious exhaust of East Germany's notorious *Trabant* cars fills the air. I am still plagued by a desire to know what accounts for the East German car industry's peculiar colour taste—*Trabis* come in unsavoury mustard or chewing-gum grey, culminated by the odd specimen of unlikely powder blue and lime green, defiantly anti-aesthetic.

To stroll from the Brandenburg Gate along the length of the Unter den Linden in the late afternoon gives a fine sense of historical catharsis before tea.

At the Museum of German

History, originally an 18th-century armoury, a sign outside the post-war section politely apologises for its closure. The rooms which once trumpeted the successes of the "State of Workers and Peasants" are currently the object of cosmetic attentions by teams of historians.

In their place is a wonderfully highly-pedigreed new exhibition cataloguing the country's November revolution, the home-made banners of streets draped in quiet triumph around outside portraits of the former Politburo, looking comically foolish, and the once standard day-glo picture of Erich Honecker smiling benignly on the bright confusions of democracy.

Outside, Frederick the Great,

restored to his pedestal in a rare moment of historical generosity by the old regime, still rides his charger, doubtless thinking that one revolution more on the streets of Berlin is neither here nor there.

Unter den Linden has the finest buildings of Berlin's Prussian past: the Humboldt university, whose sugary *Kommode* building housed the crown princes of Prussia and Lenin, although not at the same time, and the fine *Staatsoper*, from whose portals nightly disgorge the erstwhile party elite, now reduced to seeking solace in culture.

Few visitors to East Berlin leave the centre. They thus deprive themselves of its true heart, which lies in the old suburbs, preserved in their pre-war character by post-

war negligence. On the cobbled streets of Prenzlauer Berg in the Thirties, Communists and Fascists fought pitched battles, and the ill-fated workers' uprising in 1953 precociously tried its hand at *glasnost*. The tradition of armed dissent is still alive; during last October's demonstrations housewives aided the students in their battle with the *Stasi* by dropping eggs on the heads of the security forces from their balconies.

Wander up the Schönhauser Allee, with its tiny shops stocking a panoply of obsolete goods—the Bulgarian footwarmer stubbornly refuses to find takers—and then take a rattling tram to reach an urban island of extraordinary beauty: the niche of Weissensee,

which nestles around an oasis of lake and parkland untouched by the dead hand of socialist planning.

The former haunt of Berlin's Jewish elite bespeaks grace and dignity, and is still the address aspired to by the *bien pensants* of East Berlin, who occupy rambling family houses that cry out for rambling family novels to be written about them.

Just half an hour later you can be back at Friedrichstrasse, nurturing an agreeable sense of discovery before you are ferried back to the less discreet pleasures of the Kurfürstendamm. The best thing about Berlin is that there are two of them.

BERLIN: WHERE TO STAY AND WHAT TO DO

Accommodation

Top of the range: For sheer luxury accompanied by a tinge of guilt, the *Grand Hotel* in East Berlin (Friedrichstrasse 158; telephone 20920).

Period rooms designed in styles associated with famous Germans—Marx is tastefully omitted. Fabulous winter gardens. A double costs 350DM (£120).

Those who prefer to be based in the West should head for the fine old *Kempinski* (Kurfürstendamm 27; 884340).

If only for a glimpse of Berlin's nobility sipping *Sekt* surrounded by dachshunds. Double rooms from 300DM (£100).

Mid price: For reasonable and cheap accommodation, you have no choice but to stay in the West, as there are still no East Berlin hotels under luxury class which accept western visitors.

The *Seehof* (32020) on the Lietzensee is a tranquil, friendly hotel which has the unusual advantage of being situated on a lake while close to the city centre.

The *Hotel Berliner Hof* (Kurfürstendamm 111; 2823160) is good value, double room 165DM (£55), and the *Hotel Krampnitz* (896030) on the Hahnensee, double room from 150DM (£50).

Eating out: My favourites at the top end of the range would be *An Der Rehwiese* in Zehlendorf (Mettterhornstrasse 101; 8032720) for light German cooking and imaginatively prepared fresh vegetables; and the *Paris Bar* (Kantstrasse 152; 3138052)—the

Langen's of West Berlin, which has a French-German menu and the poshest clientele this side of the Elbe.

In East Berlin the *Forellengrütze* in the *Grand Hotel* (20820) is an admirable fish restaurant, supplied from the Baltic Sea, with pleasant service, and a good wine list including a selection from East Germany's only vineyard.

For a tighter budget, the best value and most interesting food is probably Turkish or Greek—*Meyhane* (Kantstrasse 152; 3139460) combines the cosy atmosphere of a Berlin pub, or *Kneipe*, with a wonderful Turkish menu including artful soft cheese and authentic delicacies. In the East, the *Spitzelbeck* (on the Spittelmarkt, 2282987)

serves herrings in creamy mayonnaise, potato soup with sausage and other tasty Prussian stodge. The *Ermerler Haus* (Märkisches Ufer 10-12; 2755109) is a Baroque restaurant, a great favourite with famous Germans—Marx is tastefully omitted. Fabulous winter gardens. A double costs 350DM (£120).

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What to do

unsteady as the night goes on. Entrance a princely 4 Ostmarks; a beer costs 56 pfennigs (15p).

Opera: My bias would lead me to the East for a night at the opera, as it is also a rare chance to see the *Grüne* of East German life in public—fur coats and dinner jackets galore; champagne and canapés in the interval. The *Staatsoper* (Unter den Linden 7; 2071362) offers exotic classical productions in a baroque setting, the *Kornische Oper* (Behrenstrasse 55-57; 2292555) is more innovative but also highly regarded—principal

producer is Harry Kupfer, whose productions, one critic said, are frequently accompanied by the background noise of composers turning in their graves.

Concerts: The *Philharmonie* in the West (Methuenerstrasse 1; 254880) looks like a meringue from the outside, but is renowned for its acoustic excellence. Tickets can be a problem, although some are put aside at the tourist office—*Verkehrsmittel* (Budapesterstrasse 1; 21234)—for foreign visitors. The *Schauspielhaus* in East Berlin (Platz der Akademie; 2271256) also has a lively programme, with frequent guest appearances by top Soviet performers, but

often announced only a few days before.

Theatre: German-speakers should head for the *Deutsches Schauspiel* (Friedrichstrasse 101, opposite station; 207129). Once the only place where East Germans could laugh openly at the foibles of their rulers, now battling valiantly to be more absurd than the reality in the country. The *Berliner Ensemble* (Schröterstrasse 1; 223160) continues doggedly with traditional Brecht productions under the iron rule of the playwright's daughter.

Getting there: There are no direct flights from Britain to East Berlin. Flights from London (Heathrow), Manchester and Glasgow to West Berlin with British Airways Pounds 110 (£131 return (0293-518060)). Pounds 110 (£131 return) offers accommodation from £40 a night at the Hotel Hamburg, and car hire from £48 for three days.

Dan Air charter flights from London (Gatwick) cost £109 return, bookable through German Tourist Facilities (01-792 1260). Expect to pay about £120 return for discounted fares on scheduled flights through

Trailfinders (01-938 3232) or Slade (01-202 0111). Bookings for East Berlin can be made through Berolina Travel (01-629 1664), the Tourist Office of the GDR.

Prices are quoted in Deutschmarks for West Berlin, Ostmarks for East Berlin. The official exchange rate is three Ostmarks to one Deutschmark.

Telephone dialling codes from Britain are: West Berlin 010 49 30; East Berlin 010 372. Telephoning West Berlin from East Berlin is relatively easy; the code is 0372. Telephoning West Berlin from the East is virtually impossible.

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JAMAICA

Red Arrows land in Red Square.

For full story see Sunday's Colour Supplement on Page 30

"Gordon Bennett"

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CITY BREAKS

TRAVEL

Peter Brown and his family took their car — and Winnie the Pooh — to Portugal to get the feel of the older parts of Britain's oldest ally

Dead dogs and ghost trains and lessons of life

After a few hundred miles on Portuguese roads, fantasy moves into the driving seat. Our map was no help, representing the victory of hope over despair, cartographically. It said there was motorway where there was none, which was worrying, not only because speed is important when children are restless, but also because the Portuguese drivers think they're in a cops movie so motorways, on the whole, are safer.

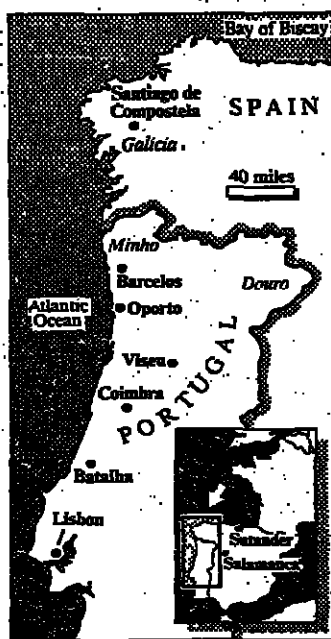
Portugal has the worst accident record in Europe, and the main road from Oporto to Lisbon takes most of the blame. It looks alluring, lined with palm-fringed huts peddling mangoes, melons and bananas; a Bacardi highway. It has a fabulous monastery, Batalha, standing there on its own by the roadside, a gleaming ochre wonder like a monk's mirage. Dead dogs abound, and every few miles on the non-motorway sections there is a crash. Combine all that with non-stop *Winnie the Pooh* on the car cassette and by the time you hit Lisbon you need a shot of reality. Not to mention a rest.

At the planning stage, the ferry from Plymouth to Santander seemed an ideal way of starting the holiday in comfort while cutting the driving time in half. So it was, but one forgets how big the peninsula is. The idea was to get a feel of the older Portugal, the part that isn't the Algarve, so it seemed a shame not to see Lisbon. But from Santander to Lisbon is 625 miles, and a lot of them are hilly. With only two weeks available, it was all a little too ambitious.

We spent the first night at Salamanca, an obvious staging post. After that there is a choice of three or four routes into Portugal. We went in via Viseu, a medieval mountain town where fortification takes the form of huge portions of salt and cold rice pudding (at an excellent restaurant called Contico). We were then too full to travel any further. Pooh often has the same problem.

On the third day, after a drive through the mountains along the new IP5, we hit the fearful coast road and eventually the concentrated exhaust fumes of Lisbon. The evening rush hour was at its peak and, while Alan Bennett took an enforced break, the children whined away a couple of jammed hours counting sheep. A flock of them were grazing beneath tower blocks in a suburban wasteland next to the six-lane ring road — Lisbon's equivalent of the North Circular.

The municipal campsite was on



a hill and well-endowed, with a loudspeaker system that presumably put the annoy in Tannoy. No better way, campers, to absorb some elementary Portuguese pronunciation. Take the place-name Lisboa: start with the Lisb, then imagine that someone has gagged you and stabbed you.

We found the only patch of earth not already covered by canvas, and pitched the tent while the children chased swallowtails. The next day we boarded an air-conditioned coach for a four-hour tour of the city. After so much time in the car, instant culture seemed like a tonic.

On your right, a magnificent monastery, the Hieronymite. On your left, the Gulbenkian Museum. Straight ahead, the winding streets of the old quarter, the Alfama. And there are magnificent gates and squares, and curious art nouveau shop fronts, and a funicular designed by Eiffel. You can see the whole city from the castle, a legacy of the Moors, high on another hill overlooking the bay. But you can't get the flavour of it from there.

For a taste of authentic Lisbon, the Feira Popular is hard to beat. It is a permanent fair, a kind of down-market Tivoli Gardens and a natural setting for all the indigenous machismo. Getting in is cheap, about 120 escudos (50p) each, plus a tip to the urchin who guards your car.

And the Feira is fun. It has a figure-of-eight roundabout. It has a roller-coaster called simply The Loop which lives up to, or down to, its name, depending on

whether you are insane enough to ride on it. It has an *arco diabolico*, a man-size gyroscope hoop on which, to the sadistic enjoyment of a large crowd, young men pay to be secured and spun. There is a ghost train, a good old-fashioned one, with mechanical skeletons spooking in and out of coffins; and there is a *tropa da morte* or ride of death. There are, surprisingly, no shooting booths, though there is any amount of electronic bingo.

The Feira smells of people, candyfloss and grilled sardines. On a Saturday night the place was full, the atmosphere somewhere between Blackpool Promenade and *Les Enfants du Paradis*. A place was found at one of the less sleazy fish bars and the baby was fed on *calda verde*, Portugal's staple thick vegetable soup, while we dined on sardines and squid, washed down with paint-stripper. The boys were in-clover with a television in the corner and popcorn to take home.

That night the ants investigating the tent discovered one of life's immutable truths: there is always popcorn left in the bag. They called their friends and we called it a day. Another truth: striking camp always takes twice as long as you think. Eventually we were off, heading for the seaside near Oporto. That road again. More dead dogs.

There were compensations. Portugal, children, is our oldest ally and when we stopped to inspect that solitary monastery, Batalha, we found the lesson proved. In its chapel the effigy of King João I holds hands demurely with those of his wife, Philippa of Lincoln, daughter of John of Gaunt. Its cloister is a combination of sparse English Gothic and twisted Manueline, that symmetrical profusion of sculpted shells and coils which symbolizes Portugal's success at sea.

Like the *azulejos* — the decorative tiles that adorn the old facades at every turn — the Manueline style is unique to Portugal, and its flourishes can be spotted throughout the country, from Belem in Lisbon to the simple pillars that stand in the middle of every old village.

They were tough on miscreants here. The founder's chapel at Batalha was reputedly built by convicts condemned to death, because the king thought the architect's plan — a 60ft square vault without intermediary supports — too ambitious for safety. The architect stuck to his guns by sleeping in the chapel during construction.

He probably slept better than we did that night at the university



Capital city: Escaping the hustle and bustle of Lisbon in the cobblestone alleyways of the old town

town of Coimbra, where the municipal camping site is on a traffic roundabout. But there was peace in the morning in a crypt-like café next to the Monastery of the Holy Cross, all dark wood and people reading newspapers. Outside on a street corner, an accordionist sat and squeezed and a woman in black stood and rested, a huge bag of vegetables balanced perfectly on her head.

It is not the obvious tourist attractions, we said to the children, but rather these glimpses of a way of life lost to us which make Portugal worth the journey. Looking puzzled, they agreed.

A perfect example is at Barcelos, about 40 miles north of Oporto, where the Thursday market is said to be the largest in Europe. It is

held in a huge square, around which the lorries rumble, packed with cork. If you want to buy a hat, a sardine, a seasonal chicken, a yoke for your ox, a good one, maybe just a few dried pig's intestines to be a skin for your sausages, your needs will be handsomely met.

For refreshment there is wine from women who carry it in ewers on their heads. For presents there are painted porcelain cockerels. For amusement there are fortune tellers.

It took us another three days to drive back, this time through Santiago de Compostela and the hairpin bends of Galicia. We never saw Oporto or the Minho or Douro valleys. But I am glad to have seen Barcelos market before the Common Market kills it.

TRAVEL NOTES

Brittany Ferries' new ship, the *Bretagne*, has cut the unpleasantness from the journey across the Bay of Biscay. The crossing is smooth and takes only 24 hours; the ship is also geared for children, with a playground and cinema. Reservations 0762 221321. A medium-sized car on the Plymouth/Santander route costs £138 return in low season. Adult passenger fares start at £100 return and children aged from four to 13 pay from £50 return. Berths in a four-bed cabin with private facilities cost from £30 return. Information: contact the Portuguese National Tourist Office, 1 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 3873).

FARE DEAL

Some bills just don't add up

Beware the "hidden extras" on your hotel bill when travelling outside Europe (Alex McWhirter writes). Most hotels do not include the cost of taxes or service charges in their room rates, and their addition can prove a nasty shock at check-out time.

Japan, Thailand and the Philippines are three countries where the cost of hidden extras can exceed 20 per cent. A traveller paying 28,000 yen (£113.36) a night at Tokyo's first class New Otani hotel will have to find a further 5,600 yen (£22.67) a day in hidden extras, or more than £110 for a five-day working week. Even in a more modest Holiday Inn costing 8,500 yen (£74.89) a night, the 10 per cent tax and 10 per cent service fee levied by all budget, first-class or de luxe Japanese hotels add an extra 3,700 yen (£14.97) a day. In Peru, the toll is even higher. At the five-star Lima Sheraton, tax and service add 30 per cent to the US\$125 a night room rate.

Australia remains the odd man out — it is probably the only country in the world where hotel bills attract no hidden extras. Tipping is still not practised widely Down Under (although hotel employees will readily accept a gratuity if one is proffered) and, unlike neighbouring New Zealand, the Australian government still refuses to levy a tax on accommodation.

Some travellers can avoid hidden extras — if you book an inclusive holiday, the tax and service charge will be included in the holiday price. If you book an airline stopover deal, for example in Bangkok or Singapore en route for Australia, you will also find that tax and service are included.

It is those travellers who book independently who must allow for the hidden extras, although any good travel agent will soften the blow by forewarning them of the amounts involved. But sometimes this is not feasible.

Take the case of travellers who enter the United States armed with 30-day hotel/motel vouchers for flexibility. These vouchers are issued by the big chains and, although they cover some or all of the room rate cost (depending on the grading of the property), they do not cover tax or service charges. To make matters more confusing, the amount of the taxes varies from state to state and city to city. If you stay in a country district, you should be liable only for state tax, but if you stay in a city, you pay state and city tax.

Visitors to New York's Manhattan, for example, must pay a city tax of about five per cent plus a \$2 per person per night occupancy tax on top of the regular 8% per cent sales tax — a total of 15 per cent or more. And that is not the end of the story. In place of a mandatory service charge, US hotel staff expect to be tipped, so you will need to carry a wad of one dollar bills.

Alex McWhirter is Travel Editor of Business Traveller magazine.

TRAVEL NEWS

Tourism is turning as green this spring as every other economic activity that can put on an environmentally acceptable face. Judge for yourself the worth of the London Inter-Continental Hotel's decision to recycle its computer printouts as notepaper. This move follows the adoption of "ozone-friendly housekeeping products" and organically grown vegetables.

According to a survey conducted by English Country Cottages, 70 per cent of its self-catering customers believe that environmental considerations will govern their future holiday choices. This group sees self-catering cottage holidays as the most environmentally acceptable form of holiday-making. Less green, they say, are holiday centres and caravaning.

Hastings is giving a lick of green colouring to its Festival of the Natural World over the first weekend of June. The organizers are hoping that healthy food and drinks will be served to visitors drawn to the exhibits of health organizations, farms, and environmental groups.

• The pursuit of green

commercial gain is eschewed by the Royal Geographical Society. "Sympathetic travel" is the theme of its one-day seminar for independent travellers on Saturday May 19. Topics include: the tourist footprint; impact on host communities; the £25 fee includes lunch. Booking forms from Expedition Advisory Centre, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

• Airlines' own airport lounges, dispensing calm, comfort and communications facilities, are a perk valued by VIP travellers — usually holders of first or business class tickets. Now the Departure Club offers similar facilities to its members, regardless of ticket status, at Gatwick's south terminal. Frequent flyers on charter flights or in the economy cabin could find the annual fee of £113.85 money well spent. Family membership for up to four adults costs £184. Details from The Departure Club, Freepost MK1232, Vantage Court, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire MK16 9BR.

Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor

TRAVEL BOOKS

• Not a travel book, but destined to be given to many emigrating or holidaying Britons, is *Aussie Watching — From Bladders and Bushies to Yachties and Yobboes*, by Colin Bowles (Angus & Robertson, £3.50). Billed as "A guide to the native Australian", it is a one-joke book — the old one about a racist, pompous, surly, gawling, Pommy-hating surfer.

• That said, it does have funny one-liners and analyses various species of modern Australian and includes cartoons to recognize them.

• *France: Alps & Jura*, by Paul Scala (MPC, £3.99) and *Hampshire and Isle of Wight*, by John Barton (MPC, £7.99) are two new editions to the *Visitors' Guide* series. Both are clear and concise with

many colour photographs and maps. Don't buy the Alps and Jura guide for advice on the snow though — it is more aimed at the tourist with an interest in local culture (Avalanches, for example, is mentioned for its architecture). Symbols beside the text indicate recommended walks, interesting buildings, etc.

Jenny Tabakoff

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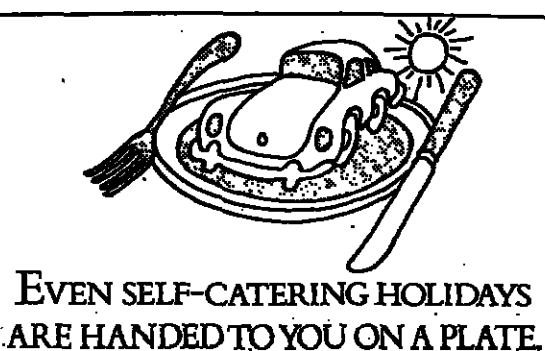
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TRAVEL

The phoenix and the blessed firemen

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID HARDING / OLIVIER MARTEL



**James Melville,
in the reborn
Nagasaki, soaks
up its sights
and rituals**

The western tourist will encounter a fascinating phenomenon in Nagasaki: the city is full of Japanese tourists, who regard it as being exotic. They flock from their tour buses to the meticulously cared-for estate high above the harbour where Thomas Glover and other prosperous English traders built their spacious residences in the latter half of the 19th century. They scrutinize the bulky Victorian furniture, and take tea in the drawing-rooms.

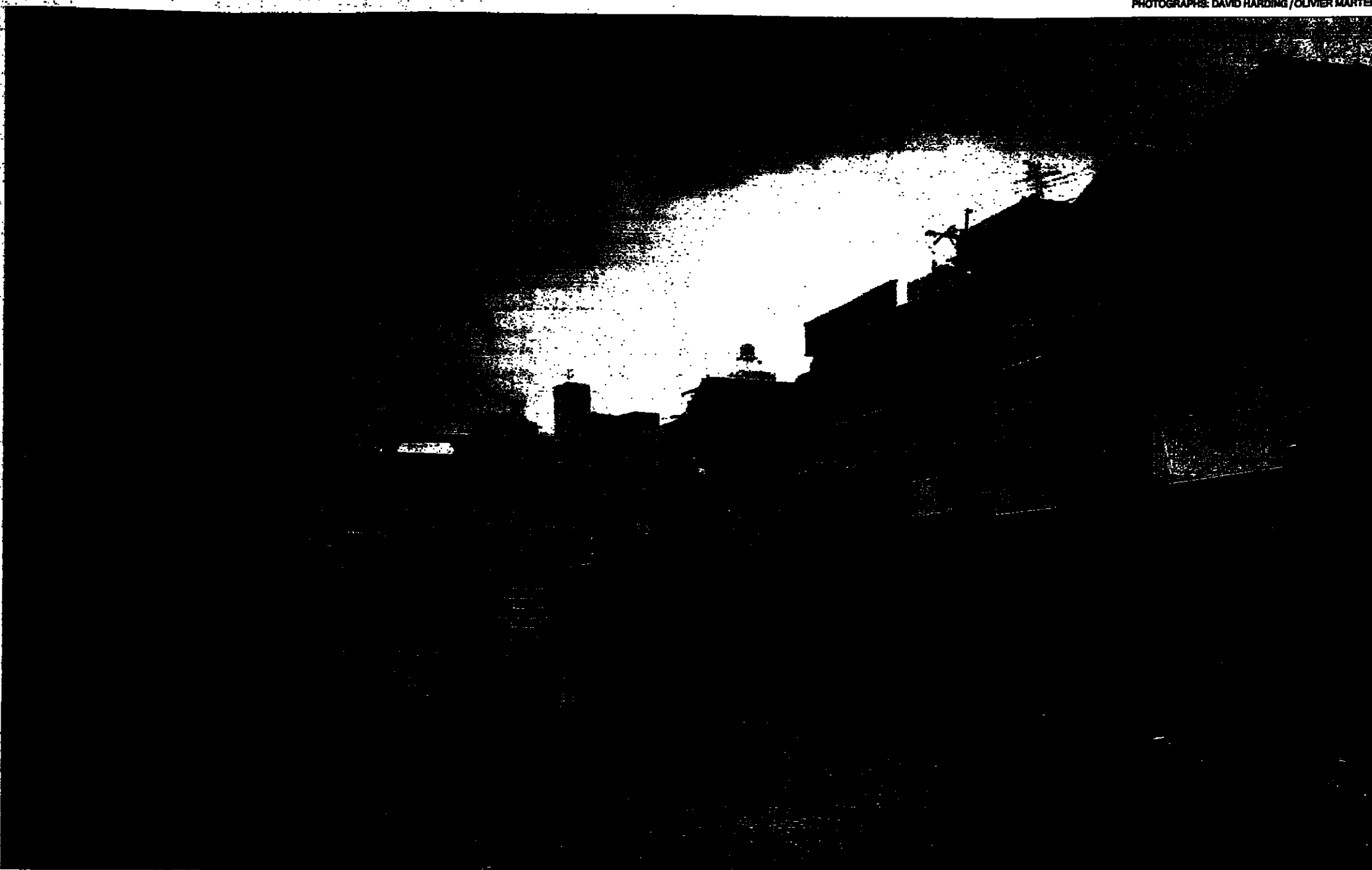
In the gardens, they pause before a memorial tablet to Puccini, whose soul must write in torment at the strains of Cio-Cio-San's aria "One Fine Day" issuing over and over again from the nearby loudspeakers.

The Japanese tourists then go in their oldest Gothic-style church, the Oura, built in memory of the crucifixion in 1597 of 20 Japanese and six foreign Christians, and to the unremarkable modern Catholic cathedral. From the souvenir shops they buy picture postcards of stained glass windows, dolls dressed as nuns, and little plaster images of red-faced Dutchmen in cutaway coats and knee-breeches. The shops also sell Chinese hats, for the sake of the significant Chinese population.

Nagasaki's Chinatown is about the size of London's, and the city also has three important places of worship: two are Buddhist temples dating from the 17th century, each founded by a Chinese priest. The third is a Confucian shrine, with a fine museum of Chinese history.

Nagasaki is a city in which the evidence of foreign influence is treasured. This is understandable, for it is the only place in Japan where contact, admittedly tenuous, was maintained with the outside world during 260 years of otherwise total seclusion imposed by the Tokugawa Shoguns between the middle of the 17th and the middle of the 19th centuries.

All foreigners were expelled, save for a few Dutch, who were confined to a tiny fan-shaped artificial island, Dejima, in Nagasaki harbour. Dejima is now surrounded by reclaimed land and is a part of the city proper, but some of its old outline may still be seen. It must have been dreadful for the wretched Dutchmen who had to live there for years on end, with only one merchant ship arriving each year to break the monotony. But life was a little better for the director of the post and a few of his senior colleagues: from time to time he was required to make the long and arduous journey to what is now Tokyo, with a small entourage and various items of furniture. There he had to make obeisance to the Shogun, present costly gifts to him, and not infrequently entertain him by giving, with his colleagues, a



Bringing the past: a bird soars high in the sky, like a phoenix, over Nagasaki's famous "Spectacles Bridge", so-called because of its likeness to a pair of glasses. Elsewhere, gaudy tourism is catching up fast



Eye-catching: costumed children join a festive ritual

public demonstration of how Europeans ate their dinner. Enough, one would surmise, to take the edge off the heaviest appetite.

Not that Nagasaki could ever have been a bad place to live, until the atomic bomb attack in August 1945, which resulted in extensive devastation in the north-east of the city. The principal areas which survived undamaged include the port and harbour area.

The official memorial is the Peace Park, a small open space laid out at the epicentre of the atomic explosion. Its principal feature is a massive bronze sculpture of a human form, erected on the 10th anniversary of the catastrophe. This is intended to represent the spirit of peace, which is somewhat surprisingly visualized as being male.

Nagasaki's topography is not unlike that of San Francisco, and the enormous natural harbour must surely be one of the most beautiful in the world. Since the older buildings for the most part cluster on the hillsides above and around the harbour, many of

fresh fish, or, in season, the deep-fried oysters.

Nagasaki acknowledges its cosmopolitan past with pride, but it is essentially a Japanese city with a Japanese heart, which for me beats most strongly at the Suwa Shrine, which merges almost imperceptibly into a hillside high in the north-east of the city.

I visited this ancient Shinto complex during the exuberant and protracted New Year celebrations. Here the sacred and the profane are on perfectly friendly terms.

It is possible at any time to bring one's new car to the Suwa Shrine for it to be ritually purified and protected from road accidents, in the special car-blessing bay incorporated into one of the subsidiary shrine buildings. The day I was there was set aside for an annual mass blessing of every vehicle brought in. These included not only a fleet of Coca-Cola delivery vans, but a magnificent, gleaming fire engine, representing all the appliances belonging to the Nagasaki fire brigade.

Firemen enjoy particularly high esteem in Japan, and those present participated in a special ceremony which took place in an open-air enclosure tucked away in a remote corner of the spacious precincts. The rite was deeply moving in its simple dignity. It involved several priests in the robes of courtiers of a thousand years ago, two of the shrine's attendant virgins and a squad of firemen. These wore not their usual uniforms but traditional firefighters' happi jackets, and business-like rubber boots, brightly polished for the occasion.

The tutelary deities were duly invoked, and then the chief priest lit a small fire of short sticks of wood, which blazed for no more than two or three minutes while more sonorous chanting went on. Already dying down to embers, the fire was then com-

pletely extinguished by the grave old priest, using first water poured from a natural gourd, then handfuls of damp seaweed, and finally a quantity of earth. After this, the attendant maidens served sake in shallow lacquer bowls to the fire chief and lay notables: an offering received as solemnly as it was made. Later each fireman was handed a personal talisman.

High above the merry and busy of the lower shrine crowds of people jostled to pitch coins into the huge

offertory boxes and make a brief petition for health, good luck, prosperity, examination success or whatever. Here were the true mysteries of Shinto.

Behind the enclosure a natural spring feeds a trickle of water into a pivoted bamboo receptacle, balanced in such a way that every 20 seconds or so the weight of water is enough to cause the container to upend itself, returning to its original position with a hollow "clack" sound that is hypnotically beautiful. Superstition,

perhaps? Faith? No, these firemen were not acting out of faith as those of us brought up in monotheistic traditions understand that term. For the Shinto deities are not gods in our sense; they are aspects of the life principle, residing in rocks and trees, water and fire.

To honour them is to recognize our proper, humble relationship with the forces of nature and our dependence upon them: no bad thing to do at any time, and particularly significant at the beginning of a new year.

TRAVEL NOTES

Japan Air Lines, 5 Hanover Square, London W1R 0DR (01-629 9244), flies daily from Heathrow non-stop to Tokyo, then from Haneda domestic airport to Nagasaki. First class return £4,798. Business class, £2,808. Full Economy, £2,571.

Information: Japan National Tourist Organization, 167 Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 9638).

James Melville stayed at the Nagasaki Grand Hotel, about £80 for a single room.

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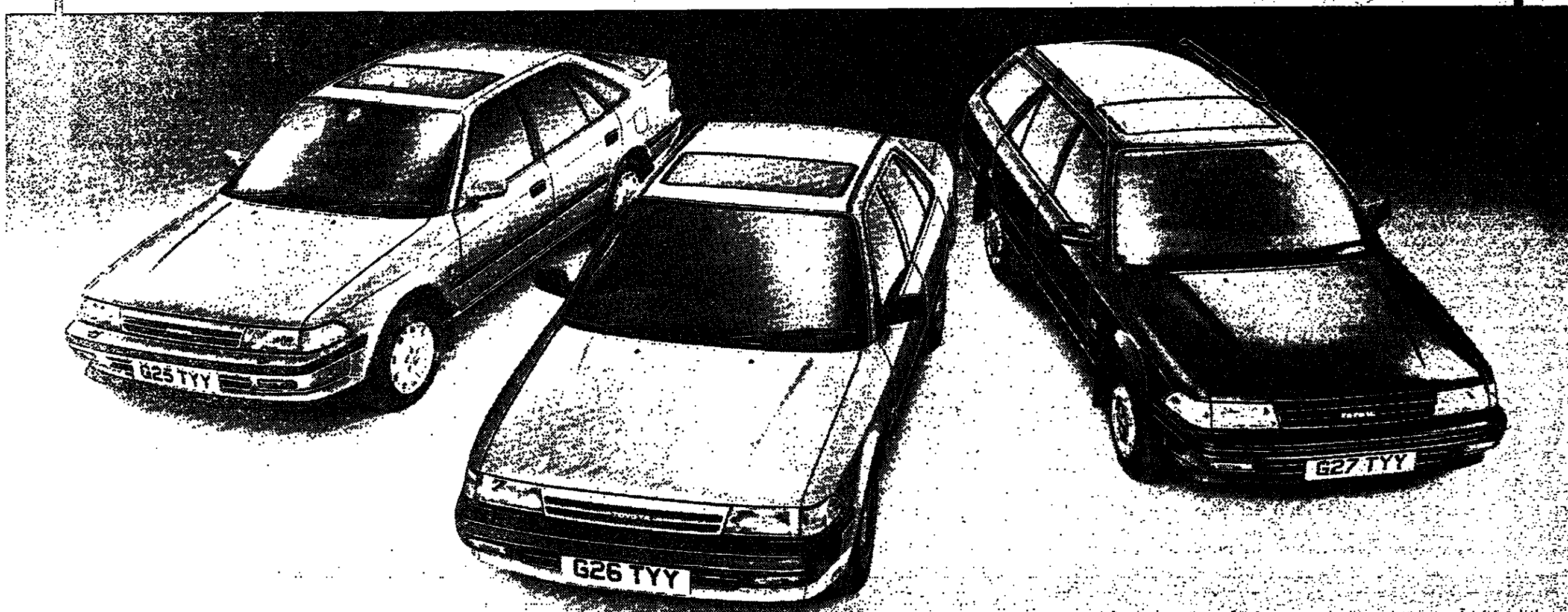
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